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BAHRAIN

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED ARRIVES IN MANAMA

NC141144Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Manama, 14 January--Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled arrived in Manama from Muscat today on a 3-day official visit to Bahrain. He was welcomed at the airport by the amir of Bahrain.

President Gouled will have discussions with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, on strengthening bilateral relations. The talks will also deal with the developments in the Middle East question and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

KUWAIT

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH AMIR

LD151040Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] His exalted highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Amad as-Sabah, at 1030 today received at As-Sif Palace Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah al-Jabir as-Sabah, who presented to him Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda and his accompanying delegation who conveyed Japan's condolences on the death of late Amir Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah. The audience was attended by the Japanese ambassador to Kuwait.

Sonoda Ends Visit

LD151835Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda left Kuwait at 1600 today. He was seen off at the airport by the Kuwaiti foreign minister and the Foreign Ministry's protocol chief, the Japanese ambassador and members of his staff.

MILITARY CONSCRIPTION TO BEGIN IN MARCH

NC151430Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 January--It has been decided to implement the military conscription plan in Kuwait in March.

This was announced today by 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, who said that at its ordinary weekly session today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali, acting prime minister and minister of information, the cabinet heard a clarification from Interior and Defense Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah on the preparations which have been made to implement the military conscription plan. He said that the cabinet also heard a report from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah on military installations and the steps adopted in this field.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

LD141916Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jan 78 LL

[Text] This evening Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal met with His Excellency James Schlesinger, U.S. Secretary for energy, who is presently visiting the kingdom.

The meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador to the United States, the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry in charge of economic affairs [name indistinct] and John West, U.S. Ambassador to the kingdom.

After the meeting Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the talks with the U.S. secretary for energy concentrated on the energy issue. He added: With the United States as the biggest energy user and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a producer, there are some matters which should be discussed at the level of the consumer and producers with the hope that common interests exist for solving what is now being called the energy crisis, which threatens world economic interests.

James Schlesinger said that the views of the kingdom and the United States were close and that there was common understanding between the two countries concerning energy and related issues.

Radio Commentary

LD1601047 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The talks which the U.S. energy secretary and his delegation are holding with Saudi officials are considered by a number of observers to be an important point along the road of solving the energy crisis. This view of the visit is prompted by a number of considerations and a number of suppositions which are based on the Saudi attitude in this regard. Observers expect the talks to produce a special definition of the ways to tackle every (?obstacle) that emerges in the field of (?conventional) energy which may aggravate the crisis and hinder progress and an economic upsurge.

The Saudi attitude in this connection has been welcomed by all international forums because the kingdom adopts a clear and defined policy which considers the interest of the human race, an interest which coincides with its own interests.

Close viewpoints of Saudi Arabia and the United States are quite possible, as U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger affirmed, particularly after the historic recent visit of President Jimmy Carter to His Majesty King Khalid. That visit resulted in the full agreement between the two countries on their joint interests. That agreement makes the visit of the U.S. energy delegation [words indistinct]. For this reason, this dialog is the ideal way to achieve results, and it has been advocated by the kingdom in the past. Saudi Arabia has tried to achieve such dialog in all the meetings previously arranged to discuss the energy crisis and all its (?subsequent issues) because dialog is better than confrontation, which can only further complicate the crisis.

It is clear then that calm dialog with patient discussion, harmony of interests and the linking of these interests with the general international interest is the way to bring a fuller perspective to world issues. This means can help solve what has been called the international energy crisis and make the wheel of (?the world) economy, which was turning with difficulty, [words indistinct] move toward the continuing process of providing welfare and prosperity to mankind. This is the objective which the kingdom seeks. It always hopes that everyone will join it in achieving it.

SAUDIS WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT DOLLARS FOR OIL

NC1515407 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1519 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 15 January--Finance and National Economy Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl has stated that the kingdom does not intend to accept any currency or group of currencies other than the dollar for its petroleum exports and that the kingdom has not submitted such a proposal to any quarter.

In a statement to SNA today, his excellency added that the OPEC economic committee will not discuss the question of the currency in which the price of petroleum will be paid, but it will discuss the method of calculating the prices, and these are two entirely different issues.

Shaykh Aba al-Khayl added that he believes that the dollar will gradually and firmly regain its strength. The finance and national economy minister welcomed the intervention of the American Federal Reserve Board and hoped this intervention will continue.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS AFTER BRIEF VISIT TO IRAN

LD152228Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the foreign minister, returned to Riydah this evening from Teheran after a short visit to Iran. His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, today received His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who delivered to his majesty a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. His imperial majesty the shah, after the meeting, gave a luncheon in honor of His Highness Prince Sa'ud.

His highness arrived in Teheran earlier today on a short visit to Iran.

UAE

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

NC151903Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 15 January--Japanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sunao Sonoda arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait tonight at the head of a delegation on a 2-day visit to the UAE in the course of his current tour of a number of states in the area. Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi held a brief meeting with the Japanese foreign minister during which they exchanged views on strengthening relations between the two countries.

Official talks between the UAE and Japan are scheduled to begin tomorrow morning.

YEMEN--PDRY

OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR TALKS IN BULGARIA

LD151520Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdullah, member of the Central Committee and minister of finance and chairman of the joint Yemeni-Bulgarian economic committee, and Abdullah Husayn (?Kulli), director general of the general tourism corporation, left Aden this afternoon for Sofia to join the official PDRY delegation led by brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Politburo member and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Shortly before leaving Aden, brother Fadl Muhsin said how happy he was to take part in the forthcoming Bulgarian-Yemeni talks. He said the visit the brother premier would be making to Bulgaria on 16 January would produce great results to develop and strengthen the relations between the parties, peoples and governments of the two countries in various fields. He said he thought his visit very important because it would deal with all the current problems in the Middle East and the Red Sea.

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC141626Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed doubt that the meetings of the Political and Military committees would lead to the issuing of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. He said: I have no hope whatsoever that such a declaration will be issued. This is why we will adopt another stand.

In an exclusive interview with Anis Mansur, chief editor of OCTOBER magazine, which will appear in Sunday's edition of the magazine, President as-Sadat said Israel will regret having opened new springs of hate, bitterness and fanaticism against the Israelis.

President as-Sadat point out that the tolerance and wish for peace which appeared after the initiative could turn into something else against the Jews, then there will emerge a new wave of hate, bitterness, and mistrust of them. He stressed that this will be a great loss for Israel, a loss which will be impossible to compensate for in hundreds of years.

The president said that after the initiative the Israelis committed three mistakes: The first is that they assume that we are unable to comprehend things or that we are politically stupid; the second is that they want to take without giving; and the third mistake is that they talk about my initiative as something of the past that has ended.

President as-Sadat added: My peace initiative is not like the King David Hotel which Begin blew up when he was young. He stressed that Begin cannot blow up this initiative without destroying himself and others for hundreds of years.

President as-Sadat said: I have offered Begin security and legitimacy and have gotten nothing in return. I have extended my hand and shown good will. The rest is up to the other side. Israel will be the loser; there is no doubt about this. As for us, we have done everything we can.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with the OCTOBER magazine:

Question: Your interview last week had an unusual international impact and was carried by all the newspapers and news agencies. It was given full coverage by the Israeli press. I have heard that an Israeli journalist, David Landau, read the Hebrew translation of it with his wife at 0300 in the morning, and he told his wife: Read this. This is the first time an Arab leader has touched the deepest spot of the Israeli soul. How do you explain this instant impact on the Jews?

Answer: The reason must be that I spoke to them about themselves. I stressed that I understood their problems and their troubles. This gives them some excuse for hesitating and for adopting a hard line. At the same time it should drive them to look for a solution to save themselves from their historical torture. Otherwise it would mean overpampering. I do not think that this is my role, nor is it my sacred mission to talk about their anguish, which they well know, and to justify their mistakes without our arriving together at a solution that would serve them more than it would serve us--a solution that would take us from the phase of misunderstanding to the phase of comprehension, understanding and then coexistence.

It is strange that all the Israeli or Jewish personalities I have since met have repeated one theme: that those Jews are "stiff necks," as they are described in the Torah, meaning that they are intransigent or that they lack flexibility. The meaning of such talk is that I should find an excuse for them or be patient with them perhaps for some time until they can move their stiff necks.

It now appears from the statements of their leaders that it is not a shame but rather a matter of quality to talk about stiff necks. If this is one of their qualities then I reject it and suggest they look for someone else to tolerate it or to sign its praise.

Question: At a very early stage, you mentioned that the negotiations or the talks with Israel were going to be fierce. Therefore you had been expecting that. In your opinion, what developments occurred in the situation that facilitated the dialog between Egypt and Israel?

Answer: Many things which I had not expected. I am aware that the Jews are clever tradesmen. This is a well-known fact and they must be happy about it. However, the cleverness I now witness presupposes a lack of understanding or political ignorance on our part. This is a mistake. The second mistake is that they wish to take without giving. The third mistake is that they talk about my initiative as something of the past, as if it had taken place and was finished.

Let us speak very clearly. This initiative has not finished and it will have results beyond the imagination of all of us. The wheel of history moves forward and no one can stop it. This is the pressure that is being exerted on the Israeli leadership by the people of Israel, world Jewry and the whole world. Perhaps these pressure forces will harass Begin and his government and the opposition too.

Perhaps it is this strong pressure also which has made them revert to their old ideas and old fears of the preinitiative era. I am not the author of the phrase preinitiative and postinitiative era. It was they who said that to me and to others.

The preinitiative ideas are a series of old traditional riddles, all of which are based on imposing peace by force. Peace by force means armed hatred. They used to say: We want secure borders, or we want borders which we can defend. These borders are usually outside the land of Israel.

If we go back in history, we will discover that when all the states of the world got tired of them, they dreamed their historic political or religious dream of having their own land, or a land in which they would be masters and the overwhelming majority. They got the land of Israel but did they achieve peace after they had got the land. Never.

Therefore, we say again that land did not give them peace. How can they achieve peace? They thought that peace could be achieved by expansion--that is, by adding another land to their narrow land. Thus, the 1956 war and the 1967 war took place. They stood on the Suez Canal--a 200-km stretch from their land--and on the Golan--a 36-km stretch from their land--and on the West Bank, a long stretch from their borders. But did the area of peace expand as did the area of land beyond their borders? Nothing of this sort happened. They stayed on the Suez Canal and set up sand shields, and behind these they built fortress of steel, rock and sand, and electronic equipment and guns. In other words, they set up firepower to threaten our land. They take from our nation and add to their nation, but did the land give them security and peace? They got nothing of the sort.

Then the October war came and smashed the Bar-Lev line--that is, the security that was made up of steel and fire--and so forth to the end of the story, which is known to all of us, with great respect to ourselves, military and civilians.

The myth of secure borders perished because secure borders do not exist and there is no security for Israel either beyond its borders or inside its borders because the Israelis are in constant fear. If they are not in constant fear, then they are in constant doubt. If fear is a state, then (?doubt) is its greatest ambassador.

What is strange is that when one talks to the Israelis in particular, and the Jews in general, about the situation in the Middle East, they come up with this puzzle about "secure borders." This expression is such an enigma that as soon as one sees it, the mind is at a loss to understand it and when the mind gets confused the discussion stops, and that falls on the shoulders of the Arabs not the Jews.

If we told them that we understood them and their problems and that we would accept them among us and give them peace and legitimacy, they would shake their heads and say: We believe you completely but what is the nature of this peace? This would mean that the "secure borders" game was over and that they were playing another game called "the nature of peace." I said when I introduced my initiative that there would be no more wars. This really moved the hearts of millions, and they are all sincere.

So if we began discussing the nature of peace everything would return to what it was before my peace initiaitve and we would engage in a new game which is: territory and peace--meaning that there can be no guarantee for peace without territory and no guarantee for territory without peace. I agree. Let us discuss it this way. You give me a piece of territory outside my territory so that I can protect my territory or give me a part of your sovereignty so that I can defend my sovereignty.

We have this popular saying: I hope you will go to sleep so that I can kill you. The natural answer is that such a suggestion would give one insomnia.

I was very astonished by Begin's proposal that there be a belt of settlements around the territory of Israel. In other words, a belt of other people's territory and sovereignty for the sake of the territory and sovereignty of Israel. This is a new puzzle, but it is actually one that we experienced before. We must reject it now because it means that the Israeli leadership has returned to the policy of imposing something on the Arabs so that they will reject it--in other words the leadership expected rejection. In other words it had planned, decided and chosen rejection in advance. In other words, it did not give anyone a chance to even think and then reject. This is the utmost in misconception and bad judgment.

Question: Do you not believe that what Begin said recently, what Peres said after your Knesset speech and what each of them has repeated again come under party maneuvers and that each of them is helping the other to take a better stand in the interest of Israel?

Answer: Of course, I know that. It appears, however, that Shim'on Peres, Golda Meir and others in the opposition have used a stranger method. They accuse Begin of compromising the rights of the Israeli people, and they charge that he has given more than he should, although Begin has given nothing. I still say that I have so far not received a positive response to my peace initiative.

The picture I see before me now is reversed. It is as if Begin is Lord Balfour, about whom the following was said after he promised a homeland for the Jews: He has offered a land in Palestine, which does not belong to him, to the Jewish people, who do not deserve it.

Begin has offered nothing. It is I who offered him everything. I offered him security and legitimacy and got nothing in return. I want to be frank and I do not want anyone to be angry with me. This peace initiative of mine is not the King David Hotel which Begin blew up when he was young. He cannot blow up the initiative without destroying himself and others for hundreds of years. This thing is too big for him to destroy, even if he wanted to. Neither he nor I can do that.

Question: You have proposed several guarantees to overcome fear and distrust. Were they not satisfied with such guarantees? How did the idea of exchanging one piece of land for another--that is exchanging a piece of guarantee with a piece of security or a piece of security with a piece of guarantee--come about?

Answer: If these guarantees were not clear, I am prepared to reiterate them a thousand times. I have done this several times, but the political leadership in Israel does not see them clearly enough.

When Rabbi Schindler, chairman of the Jewish organization in the United States, asked me about the guarantees American Jews were asking about, I told him that I pledge to give all security guarantees because I, too, want security and want to devote myself to building Egypt. Our need for development, reconstruction and industrialization is unlimited, exactly like Israel's. If it is necessary to repeat the guarantees, once again I mention them and add something new to them:

1. I agree to demilitarized zones on both sides. I will take into consideration the difference between the depth of Egypt and the narrow Israeli territory.

2. I agree to the presence of early warning stations like those in existence provided that these do not include a single Egyptian or a single Israeli--that is, no Israeli shall be in this station on my territory and no Egyptian on their territory.

3. That there shall be limited arms areas.

4. That there shall be a definition of the forces there, which will be discussed by the Military Committee.

5. That there shall be UN emergency forces along the border, even in Sharm ash-Shaykh, where not a single Israeli will stay.

6. That it shall be stipulated in the peace agreement that the Gulf of Aqaba, which they call the Gulf of Elat, will be international waters open to navigation.

7. That a joint committee formed of Egypt and Israel, with or without the supervision of the United Nations, shall meet regularly, alternately in Al-'Arish and in Beersheba.

8. If all the foregoing guarantees are not enough, would a declaration of peaceful coexistence, opening of borders and normalization of relations be adequate?

Nothing is more clear than all this except the well-known story by the Russian writer Tolstoy. In this story it was said that some tribes possessed land in a strange way. A tribesman would mount his horse at dawn and ride, and all the land through which he rode would belong to him provided he returned to the same spot before sunset. The people were eager to acquire a vast area of land, so they exhausted their horses on the outward journey and when they tried to return their horses died on the way. It was a choice of either the land or the horses. But greed and bad judgment makes one imagine that he can obtain the largest area of land and keep his horse strong and calm. It seems that Israel is attempting the impossible in seeking the largest area of territory of others and seeking to obtain the greatest degree of peace.

It is impossible for Israel to succeed in this attempt because it is impossible for us to accept it. As to exchanging a piece of land for another, they want me to give them a piece of land at Rafah and another at Elat against a similar area in the Negev Desert. This is also rejected.

Question: That was as far as Sinai was concerned. What do you envisage regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

Answer: I propose the establishment of an Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian committee which would sit and hold discussions.

Question: Will the Palestinians in this committee be from the sons of the West Bank or others?

Answer: When we agree on the principles, we will discuss this matter.

Question: Despite the enormous impact caused by the peace initiative, we read about strange debates in Israel on the issue: What are the reasons for the initiative? What prompted President as-Sadat to make it? Political reasons or humanitarian reasons? Is it a shock to Israel that might awaken it, or a shock to the entire world? Is not this strange?

Answer: These debates also indicate that the crux of the initiative is not understood completely. Despite the fact that I had explained it and given political and humanitarian reasons and deemed my mission sacred, these questions imply doubt and distrust. Whoever reads the history of the Jews will discover that they accuse the whole world of making them more adamant and fanatic while they are not like that by nature but that the pressure exerted on them from every direction has changed their features and images until they no longer know themselves. It is they who say this. I do not know who it was who compared their psychological makeup to a picture of a person walking against the wind. The wind blowing against that person causes his hair to be disheveled, his face to be scowling and hard featured. He walks in violent strides to avoid being blown away by the wind. This person, too, is not like that in reality but his resistance to the air pressure makes him appear like that. What the Israelis in particular and the Jews in general do not understand is that the tolerance and wish for peace which appeared after my initiative could, I fear, turn into something else against them. Then the Jews would complain anew of a wave of hatred, bitterness and mistrust of them. Thus, the Egyptian people would have borrowed intransigence and relentlessness from them.

They are a people who do not desire peace, nor do they desire natural coexistence among peoples because they want war and hatred to continue in order to profit from them. They prefer this situation so as to bargain with it. Thus, they engross the world in secure borders, the nature of peace and the crushed Jewish minority and the overwhelming Arab majority.

They want to transfer some of their fear to us. Fear leads to hatred and hatred induces war. In other words, the present state of affairs would continue to be the natural state of things. It is this which prompted me to carry out my initiative so as to create a new situation and a new understanding. in order to rectify the conditions which got twisted in our hands and which twisted us too.

However, the history of Egypt confirms that Egypt has experienced scores of invasions and cultures, all of which have been absorbed by Egypt, and the Egyptian personality has remained firm and strong, steadfast and calm. We have 7,000 years behind us. For example, the Turks ruled us for hundreds of years. Where did they go? Where did the Turkish families which remained in Egypt go? They were absorbed by us and Egypt remained and the Egyptian personality remained. This is what these people do not understand or do not want to understand. However, fear is the second skin of every Israeli or Jew who is not content with fear but seeks to frighten or make others afraid also. This is the worst kind of equality in history.

We seek to bring about the most noble and civilized equality--the equality of security and peace--and to live and let others live too. There is no reason for Israel to preoccupy itself with our fears of them. Let them look for a better way to rid themselves of their fears before it is too late. I have given them this opportunity, and the whole world behind me is witness to this.

Question: You have declared that no Israeli, civilian or military, will remain in Sinai. Will this apply to the Israelis born in Egypt?

Answer: This is a different matter. The question of no Israelis remaining in Sinai is indisputable. However, if an Israeli or an Egyptian Jew comes to us through the door, then I will have no objection. I declared this last year, and scores of Egyptian Jews rushed to register their names with our embassies abroad. This is not a primary issue. The main question is peace within and peace outside. Egypt is in need of construction and development. This is a serious responsibility. A few minutes ago I was touring Lake Nasir. It is a desert of water like other unexploited desert areas here. The lake needs no cultivation, since it contains fish, but I want to harvest and establish a fish industry for food and export whatever is surplus. This is possible. I want to do exactly what the Jews are doing with the fish from the Egyptian Lake al-Bardawil. They obtain fish from the lake, preserve them in cans, export and sell them as Egyptian fish and an Israeli product. There are several vital projects for Egypt. The future of Egypt is endless. There is a vast field of construction and development in Egypt. We need to utilize our manpower and brains. All I hope for is that we lay aside our arms and turn to construction, industry or agriculture. There is a great difference between us and Israel. All the Israelis are fighters but only some of us are. Every Israeli must undergo military training 1 month each year up to the age of 55. Whether an employee or a worker, he, his wife and children must leave work for training. War is destruction, disaster and loss of energy to them. Therefore, they need peace more than we do.

They, more than we, need to build a Bar-Lev line within themselves--a psychological Bar-Lev line founded on living together in peace. As long as they decline such psychological lines, let them build other lines. The fate of such lines is well known to them. If they have not learned from history, there is an adage saying that history has taught us not to learn from it. However, in view of this brilliant opportunity we must look at history behind and ahead of us so as not to repeat the past.

Question: You say that it seems that the Israeli leaders have failed to understand the substance of the initiative. What exactly do you mean? I would like this to be conveyed clearly to Israel and to the world.

Answer: Some analysts thought that the initiative achieved a personal glory. The initiative is definitely an honor I am proud of. It enters into my calculation and puts me on record in history as an advocate of love and peace.

Some of them predicted that this year would witness several holidays at the same time. This is the end of the road. On 25 December this year my birthday will coincide with Christmas, Hanukkah--festival of lights in Israel--the ceremony of handing me the Nobel Peace Prize, Israel's celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of its establishment and other events. By God, believe me that this was not my aim. What I want is greater than this. Therefore, I see that the Israeli leaders have failed to realize the substance of the initiative and have wrongly imagined that it was a surprise visit to Jerusalem. Indeed, it was a surprise. It shook Israel and defeated the bases upon which Israel had made its calculations for coming generations. I find an excuse for those who were taken by surprise by my visit. It was not a visit, nor was the Israelis' coming to Egypt and sitting with us a tourist visit. I would not be eager to entertain anyone or to accord him happy memories in the shade of the pyramids. The matter is a serious one, not a pastime. It requires a followup and assessment of the situation. Such an assessment should be accurate in a critical period in the life of the whole world.

Shaking hands with Begin and hundreds of others has not ended everything but has smoothed the way to all things. It reminds me of a painting by the great Italian artist who painted the "creator of the universe." He portrayed God as extending his hand in space and by pointing a finger he created things. No finger or hand can create the peace initiative. There must be several fingers and hands as well as good will to create it. I have extended my hand in good will and the rest is up to the other side.

Israel will be the loser. There is no doubt about this. As for us, we have done all we could.

Question: There is a touch of sadness and sorrow in your words, as if you regret what you did, but we are accustomed to your being always optimistic.

Answer: I do not regret what I did, whatever it may cost. I have already said this and I said that if I were to fail I would give my place to someone else who has to complete this mission or may have another view or another method. I had hoped to perform the Al-Adha feast prayers in Sinai this year and I had hoped that my prayers would be on the same spot from which Moses, peace be with him, addressed his God.

In fact, my intention was to build on that holy place a mosque for the Moslems, a church for the Christians and a synagogue for the Jews, with adjoining walls as a tangible and lasting symbol of the coexistence of people of all religions, because our God is one, and our road is the road of love and our aim is peace.

Question: You say you are optimistic and yet your comment so far on the strange attitudes in Israel calls for despair, unless you expect something else from the Political Committee or the Military Committee that would justify this optimism.

Answer: I will tell our people everything and we will have an opinion and a stand when the negotiations lead to something or if they do not lead to anything. At the same time we must not be shaken by a word uttered here or there to our dislike, such as the words of Begin or anyone else.

Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman came to me and we talked. He is a good man, but the old picture of everything has returned to Israel's mind. If the new picture, which is clear to the whole world, is not clear to them, then there is no need to waste time. We experienced time wasting before at the time of the disengagement negotiations when Kissinger went to them and came back to us about agreement or disagreement over a word. To them this word was worth a piece of territory or a degree of security. This takes me back to the beginning, to answering the question of what was the purpose of my initiative? The answer is that the Syrians would have embarked on lengthy verbose arguments that would lead us nowhere. It is as if I have avoided getting lost in the Syrian arguments only to enter into the Israeli arguments. I see that the two have the same method of discussions and labyrinths.

Question: Then what do you expect from the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem and the Military Committee in Cairo?

Answer: A declaration is supposed to be issued asserting two principles: complete withdrawal from the occupied territories with slight amendments, as stipulated in Resolution 242 of 1967, and settlement of the Palestinian question from all aspects. I declare now that I have no hope whatsoever that this declaration will be issued. This is why we will have another stand.

PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

As-Sadat, Callaghan Talks

NC131551Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 13 January--Official talks between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and British Prime Minister James Callaghan began at President as-Sadat's resthouse in Aswan this afternoon. Mr and Mrs Callaghan arrived at Aswan airport at 1650 today on a brief 4-hour visit to Aswan. During the visit, Mr Callaghan will hold talks with President as-Sadat on the Middle East problem and relations between the two countries.

As-Sadat, Callaghan Talks End

NC131910Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan 13 January--The talks between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and British Prime Minister James Callaghan ended this evening.

After the 2-hour talks President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Callaghan held separate press conferences, each of which lasted 15 minutes, during which both spoke about the results of their talks and then replied to journalists' questions. The talks were attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and British Cabinet press adviser Kenneth [name indistinct].

MENA has learned that during his tour of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, Mr Callaghan contacted Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin by telephone. He also contacted the British ambassador in Tel Aviv in order to acquaint himself with some points he could discuss with President as-Sadat to facilitate the negotiation process between the two sides.

It has been learned that Mr Callaghan will meet with his advisers on Middle East affairs after his return to London in order to discuss the Middle East problem as a whole. The British prime minister will also contact U.S. President Carter to discuss the situation with him.

As-Sadat Press Conference

NC1320182 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 13 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has declared that the peace process is now passing through a decisive stage. He said: We had fruitful discussions with British Prime Minister James Callaghan and reached an understanding on a number of points. President as-Sadat said this at the press conference held at his resthouse in Aswan following the conclusion of his talks with James Callaghan.

At the outset of the press conference, which was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, President as-Sadat made a statement in which he said: I would like to inform you that I am very grateful to my friend Prime Minister Callaghan for responding to my invitation to stay with us for a few hours here in Aswan. In fact, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for his initiative to help us--the initiative which he took immediately after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in London by sending me a very valuable personal letter. After the Ismailia talks Mr Callaghan contacted me from his countryside headquarters to express his feelings. This is why I am trying to express my gratitude to him. I take this opportunity, really, because the peace process is now passing through a decisive stage.

The president said: I explained the subject to the British prime minister. We had very fruitful discussions on the endeavors which he is now making and which he will make in the coming phase. We reached understanding on a number of points. The text of As-Sadat's press conference follows:

Question: In the press conference he held yesterday, President Carter said that the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories are illegal. What is your comment on this?

Answer: This is what I told Mr Begin in Ismailia. I did not agree on this whole subject. When I told you just now that the peace process is passing through a decisive phase or is in danger, it is because of that subject and because of the question of self-determination for the Palestinians.

Replying to a question on the results of President as-Sadat's discussions with Callaghan, President as-Sadat said: Well, I prefer not to divulge them because I expect that he will continue to play a constructive role as he did before. Let us not divulge what we have agreed on at the present time.

The president was asked: Will Mr Callaghan play the role of a mediator?

Answer: No, he is not a mediator but he is a friend of both sides.

Replying to a question on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sinai and whether it will be a phased withdrawal and whether, as the Jerusalem POST said, Egypt agreed to this, President as-Sadat said: I did not exactly say this but I consider that the question of the settlements does not need my comment because I have not agreed to this in principle. In my speech at the Knesset I defined my position very clearly. We did not agree on this matter. I also said at my press conference in Jerusalem: Our land is sacred. And, therefore, I did not say anything to the Jerusalem POST.

Continuing his reply to the question on what was published by the Jerusalem POST about Egypt's agreeing to a phased withdrawal from Sinai, President as-Sadat added: I did not tell the newspaper anything except that we do not agree to the principle of the presence of settlements on our territory. This matter has been confused and misunderstood because what I said, and my idea was, that [the removal of] the settlements will be the last phase of withdrawal, nothing more.

Replying to a question on his refusal to let the Israelis remain in the settlements, President as-Sadat said: When the Jerusalem POST correspondent yesterday asked me why do you not accept the Israelis since you accept foreigners here?, I said to him: Last summer I issued a decision allowing every Israeli of Egyptian origin to return to Egypt if he wished to do so. In Egypt they will not be treated as second-class citizens at all. They lived among us and we never knew discrimination. [This was the case also] in many places. Even if 1,000 of them wanted to return to Egypt, I would welcome them. But when it comes to imposing the presence of Israelis on my borders, that is a different matter altogether and I do not accept it at all.

Question: Mr President, it has been reiterated that Egypt is prepared to accept some of the points in the Israeli plan and that Israel is prepared to accept some of the points in the Egyptian plan. Can you explain this to us?

President as-Sadat: Believe me, I cannot remember all the 26 or 27 points in the Israeli plan. In any negotiations, it is natural that there should be points of disagreement and points of agreement. This was the case in Ismailia. I met with Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman the day before yesterday, and there were many points of agreement as well as points of disagreement.

Question: Do you agree to an Israeli presence in the West Bank in accordance with Begin's plan during the transitional period if Israel acknowledges the right of self-determination for the Palestinians?

Answer: Well, first of all I would like to say to you that I do not talk about the Palestinians in detail. I suppose that when we achieve agreement on a declaration of principles we will proceed to form bilateral committees--an Egyptian-Israeli committee, a Palestinian-Israeli committee, a Syrian-Israeli committee, a Lebanese-Israeli committee and a Jordanian-Israeli committee. The Palestinian-Israeli committee should in my opinion consist of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians. Why? Because, as you know, we had the Gaza Strip and King Husayn had the West Bank. This is why I suggest a quadripartite committee to discuss all the details pertaining to this issue. As I have just said, the Palestinians must assume their responsibility in this committee or in this meeting, and they should then speak for themselves because, at least as far as we are concerned, we have agreed that the Palestinians must enjoy their right to self-determination. This is in the first place. Secondly, I am very sorry about the attitude of the Palestinians, the attitude adopted by Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues, because they have isolated themselves and lost a real and rare opportunity by not attending the Cairo conference with us. The door is still open, however, and we hope that they will find the way to Cairo after a declaration of principles is achieved.

Question: Your Excellency has said that 1978 will be the year of decision, but Mr Brzezinski and Mr Waldheim have said that they believe that a final settlement will take more than a year. What is your comment?

Answer: Well, I did not at all expect that a decision such as the settlement decision (? could take so long) and that the road would be blocked to the peace momentum. Well, you have always heard me saying that I am optimistic. Yes I am optimistic the year 1978, perhaps the first half of it, may be the year of decision.

Callaghan Press Conference

NC132318Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 13 January--British Prime Minister James Callaghan held a press conference this evening after the conclusion of his talks with President Anwar as-Sadat. He began the conference by saying: I am pleased to have had the opportunity to hold talks with President as-Sadat because they come after my two meetings with Mr Begin a few weeks ago. Although I had contacted President as-Sadat by telephone, we proposed to meet face to face. Tonight we held discussions for 2 hours during which we exchanged views on the latest developments in the negotiations.

Callaghan added: I would like here to repeat in President as-Sadat's town, in Aswan, the town of the great High Dam, that President as-Sadat has made gigantic strides on the right course and that his initiative in going to Jerusalem was a creative and courageous one and won the admiration of the world. From my talks with Mr Begin, I understood that he personally shares the world's admiration of this initiative and that he responded to the initiative by drawing up fundamental proposals for peace.

At his press conference, Callaghan said: After 2 hours of talks with President as-Sadat, I can say that a decisive decision is now required from Israel and from the others. I can also say that the peace opportunities are now available to the Israeli people and the Arab people.

I am convinced that the road is paved for the establishment of peace [and the solution of] the Middle East problem. This was out of the question before, but now it is the duty of every one of us not to lose the opportunity.

Callaghan added: I believe that the efforts President as-Sadat has exerted, his meetings and the very clear declaration of his stand are matters which will help us in our m ssion for the sake of peace. I hope that the Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian sides and representatives of the PLO will participate in the talks at some stage in order to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Callaghan said that the policy of the British Government will remain as it is, unchanged as it did not change before--that is, any settlement must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Callaghan said: The aim we seek is peace treaties that would lead to completely normal relations between the states in the area either in the form of direct normal relations in this respect--or peace treaties that could be concluded after some time, in other cases.

Callaghan added that such treaties would provide better conditions for all states in the area, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized borders. This is extremely important for the future of all the states in the area. Callaghan went on to say that a series of agreed-on peace treaties are the best guarantees of peace and security for all the peoples in the area. If we could achieve this, then it would become necessary for the Palestinian people to participate in the negotiations, in the implementation of the settlement and in the inevitable determination of their future within a national homeland for them, taking into consideration the fundamental interests of the states and peoples participating in the peaceful settlement.

Callaghan said at his press conference that Britain's role has been and will continue to be one of helping the negotiations so as to keep in constant touch with the parties concerned, as long as these parties believe that this role helps them and facilitates any part of the negotiations.

Callaghan said that after his talks with President as-Sadat he will contact those concerned. He said: I have emphasized to President as-Sadat that we will continue to work in this manner and I hope that the negotiations in the Political Committee and in the Military Committee under the guidance of President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin will lead to achieving the basis of a comprehensive and lasting peace.

After making this statement at the press conference, James Callaghan answered journalists' questions. The following is the text of the questions and answers:

Question: Can you tell us in detail the role Britain can play for the establishment of peace in the area?

Answer: I do not believe I can. It is a role of explanation, a role of attempting to facilitate the way. It is a helping role when difficulties appear.

Question: Last week the British defense secretary said that Israel must adopt a moderate stand in light of President as-Sadat's initiative. What is your comment on this? Will Britain exert pressure on Israel to make it adopt a moderate stand?

Answer: We do not exert pressure on any state. The parties must create the conditions themselves. They are aware of the importance of peace and its value as far as they are concerned. Our task is to explain and convince the parties as long as we can do so. However, we have no principal role to play. The principle role should be played by the parties, primarily Egypt and Israel. The United States will attend the Political Committee meetings on Monday. I am sure that Mr Vance will play a very positive role.

Question: Did you bring a letter from Begin to President as-Sadat as has been rumored here?

Answer: No. You know how rumors spread. I believe that President as-Sadat and Mr Begin are capable of contacting each other.

As-Sadat Dinner for Callaghan

NC132046Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 13 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held a dinner in honor of British Prime Minister James Callaghan this evening after the two press conferences President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Callaghan held.

Prime Minister Leaves Aswan

NC132048Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 13 January--British Prime Minister James Callaghan and Mrs Callaghan left Aswan at 2130 this evening for London. Mr Callaghan was accorded an official sendoff at Aswan airport. Vice President Husni Mubarak was at the head of those seeing him off. The British prime minister arrived in Aswan this afternoon from Pakistan for talks with President as-Sadat.

MATERIALS ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT, ISRAEL

Spokesman on Begin's Statement

NC132122Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 January--Reports from Israel have quoted Menahem Begin as saying, in a Herut movement meeting, that President as-Sadat had said that the Israelis should burn their settlements as soon as a peace treaty is concluded. Begin commented on that by saying: I advise President as-Sadat to leave the monopoly on burning to Nero. An official Egyptian spokesman commented on these reports with the following statement:

First, President as-Sadat did not use the word "burn" in any statement he made on this subject. The only expression President as-Sadat used was in connection with the airfields in an interview to OCTOBER magazine, when he said, verbatim: "When I was asked what we shall do with these airfields, I replied: Plow them over before you leave."

Second, the word "burn," which Begin used, is therefore at variance with the word President as-Sadat used. It is also out of place and was not used in the dramatic context that Mr Begin used and that was absolutely uncalled for.

Third, Egypt's attitude concerning the settlements and airfields is well known and has been affirmed by President as-Sadat more than once. His most recent statement on them came in the press conference held in Aswan at the conclusion of the visit of his excellency the shah of Iran when he said peace cannot be achieved by building settlements on the territories of others.

Fourth, statements made by world leaders and politicians affirm what President as-Sadat has stated in this respect.

Fifth, any statements or announcements of such an exciting or dramatic nature do not benefit movement in the direction of peace as much as they constitute an obstacle to it.

The official spokesman concluded his statement by emphasizing that the Egyptian stand has been clear and frank from the start of President as-Sadat's initiative and that it would serve peace if all sides adopted equally frank and clear stands so that the initiative may achieve its aims.

Weizman Comments on Negotiations

NC132346Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 13 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 January--It has been decided that the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee will resume its meeting on Wednesday in At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo to discuss the matters on its agenda regarding the plans for Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. The newspaper AL-AHRAM says in its issue Saturday, tomorrow, that the Israeli military delegation will return to Cairo on Tuesday to attend the committee meetings.

Before leaving Cairo for his country today, Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman made a statement in which he said that the negotiations between the Egyptian and Israeli sides achieved tangible progress during the Military Committee meetings. He said that there still are problems and differences and we still have much to achieve.

When he was asked if he was taking an Egyptian plan with him to Israel, Weizman replied in the negative and said: I am not taking any Egyptian plans, but I am taking ideas about the Egyptian stand with me.

Asked if these were acceptable to him, Weizman replied: No, they are not acceptable to me. He said that he was going to Israel to hold consultations on the situation and the problems before the committee and the various viewpoints.

Weizman said that the Israeli military delegation will return to Cairo and that the committee will resume its meetings to reach positive results. He said that the time factor is not important in this respect. The important thing is to reach results that will lead us to peace.

Military Committee Meetings Postponed

NC151217Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian military spokesman today convened the foreign correspondents who are covering the meetings of the Military Committee and told them that although they are awaiting the resumption of the meetings of the committee, the meetings, to his regret, will be postponed without setting a specific time for their resumption.

Therefore, he said, he told them that they are entitled to make arrangements if they want to leave Egypt. The decision is up to them. In reply to a question he said that if they want to stay they can decide to do so themselves. But he reaffirmed that there is no date set for the resumption of the meetings of Military Committee because they are connected with the Political Committee.

Vance Postpones Visit

NC150728Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat this morning will receive the head and members of the Egyptian delegation to the talks of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee. President as-Sadat will give his instructions to the Egyptian delegation. In light of these instructions efforts will be made to establish and announce the principles of a comprehensive solution and its components, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian delegation to these meetings is headed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

A meeting was held yesterday at the Foreign Ministry attended by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war; Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Maj Gen Taha al-Majdub. The meeting lasted for an hour. During the meeting the participants exchanged views on the results of the Military Committee meetings and the subjects to be discussed by the Political Committee during its meeting in Jerusalem tomorrow.

An official in the Egyptian delegation has stated that Egypt's position in the Political Committee will stress the need to achieve agreement on the basic principles of peace. On this basis, Egypt has proposed a three-point agenda. The agenda includes the principle of total withdrawal; solution of the Palestinian problem politically; the ending of the state of war and the peace agreement. The speech of the Egyptian delegation in the committee tomorrow will deal with these three principles.

An urgent dispatch by REUTER says that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has postponed his scheduled visit to Israel today. The agency says that Vance was compelled to postpone the visit because of the failure of the Egyptian and Israeli sides to reach agreement on ways to discuss the Palestinian issue and on the principles on which this discussion would take place.

As-Sadat Receives U.S. Ambassador

NC151030Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat this morning received Mr Hermann Eilts, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak.

National Security Council Meeting

NC151604Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] An official spokesman has made the following statement: President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has called on the National Security Council to meet at noon today.

The president was due to meet with members of the Egyptian delegation to the Political Committee, which stemmed from the Cairo conference and which is due to convene in Jerusalem at noon tomorrow, Monday, 16 January 1978.

However, as a result of the contacts which continued throughout last night between Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the U.S. administration through the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, which President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat followed up on gradually and regarding which he immediately issued his instructions, differences appeared to exist in the viewpoints on the proposed agenda of the Political Committee. The United States has presented a new plan which it hoped would reflect the viewpoints of the various parties and which could be considered as a working paper suitable for the work of the Political Committee.

In light of these developments, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat decided to refer the subject to the National Security Council for a comprehensive, objective study and for adopting an appropriate decision prior to the Egyptian delegation's departure for Jerusalem.

The National Security Council met at noon today under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, ASU Central Committee Secretary General Engineer Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Prime Minister of the Presidential Office Lt Gen Hasan at-Tuhami, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and the chief of general intelligence.

All dimensions of the situation were presented to the council. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak briefed the council on the contacts which continued throughout last night, during which proposals were made regarding the working paper proposed by the United States in order to reach a comprehensive solution of the conflict in the Middle East.

Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi reviewed the results of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee meetings held in Cairo last week, at which the Egyptian side was led by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and the Israeli side by Israeli Defense Minister General Weizman.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil presented his views on the work procedure of the committee in respect of the proposed plan. Members of the National Security Council took part in the debate.

At the end of the meeting, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat issued his directives and asked the foreign minister to convey them to the members of the Egyptian delegation so that the Egyptian viewpoint should be completely clear at the Political Committee meetings.

It was decided that the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem will leave this afternoon.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will leave for Jerusalem, where he will arrive before the opening session of the Political Committee at noon tomorrow.

His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan contacted President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat while the council was in session. He conveyed his complete support for the president's moves and his efforts for achieving peace in the area. King Husayn affirmed to the president the support of the Jordanian people and government for these constructive and courageous moves by the president. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat thanked his majesty for his support, affirming that Egypt is eager to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area, which will achieve the aspirations of the whole world for stability in the area in peace, security and tranquillity.

Meanwhile, it has been decided that the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee will resume its meetings around the beginning of next week in accordance with the agreement of the two sides and the contacts General Weizman made with Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi.

Delegation Leaves for Jerusalem

NC151617Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--The Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee which will begin tomorrow, Monday, left Cairo for Jerusalem at 1730 today. The delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and includes in its membership Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, leader of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo preparatory conference Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz, Counselor 'Amru Musa and Dr Nabil al-'Arabi. The Egyptian information delegation and chief editors of the press also left Cairo for Jerusalem.

Vance To Arrive in Jerusalem

NC151400Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--A responsible source said after the National Security Council meeting today that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Jerusalem Monday morning to attend the Political Committee meetings.

The Voice of America reported today that Vance has postponed his visit to Jerusalem because Egypt and Israel had been unable to agree on the agenda.

MENA on Vance Activities

NC152147Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 15 January--MENA has learned that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will leave Washington at a late hour tonight for Jerusalem so as to participate in the meetings of the Political Committee, which begin on Tuesday morning, and attend the opening session, which was previously scheduled to be held tomorrow, Monday, at 1100. Vance will leave the U.S. capital aboard a special plane for Jerusalem at 2100 tonight--0600 Monday Cairo time. Vance is scheduled to arrive in Jerusalem at 1900 Monday evening.

Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton, Director of Intelligence and Research Harold Saunders and William Quandt, Middle East affairs specialist of the U.S. National Security Council, will accompany the U.S. secretary of state on his visit to Jerusalem.

An American official has stated that the U.S. administration is pleased because the Egyptian and Israeli sides have managed to solve the procedural problems which threatened the cancellation of the Political Committee meeting.

MENA has also learned that the U.S. secretary of state has been carrying out intensive contacts with Cairo and Jerusalem regarding the agenda of the Political Committee since yesterday morning after Egypt declared its dissatisfaction because of Israel's insistence on not including the question of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinian issue in the committee agenda. This prompted Vance to cancel his trip to Jerusalem 1 and 1/2 hours before he was scheduled to leave Washington. The contacts Vance carried out lasted until 2030 Cairo time today.

The U.S. secretary of state decided to travel to Jerusalem after he received word that the Israeli Cabinet had agreed to amend the agenda of the Political Committee in a manner acceptable to Egypt.

The U.S. officials have declined to disclose the amendments the Israeli cabinet approved. However, some sources here have described these amendments as a "sort of concession" which resulted in the possibility of convening the Political Committee.

Cyrus Vance is scheduled to stop in Cairo for a few hours on Friday while en route to Washington from Jerusalem to meet with President Anwar as-Sadat.

Further Details on U.S. Delegation

NC152206Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 15 January--MENA has learned that the assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Alfred Atherton, will represent his country's delegation to the meetings of the Political Committee in Jerusalem when Cyrus Vance leaves Jerusalem on Friday.

MENA has learned from informed sources that the United States will exert huge efforts to steer the Political Committee discussions in a search for bases for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East question in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions stipulate an Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories Israel occupied in 1967. Specifically these territories, according to these sources, are the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza and the rest of the occupied territories in the Sinai Peninsula.

This morning Vance held a long meeting in his office with the members of the U.S. delegation that will accompany him to Jerusalem. The meeting was attended by two of President Carter's aides, including National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

MENA has learned that during the meeting a complete settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli dispute was discussed. The U.S. endeavors to give a comprehensive settlement top priority in the Political Committee discussions so as to make it possible to expand the peace talks to include the other parties concerned. The Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination were also discussed.

Military Committee To Reconvene

TA160631Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee will resume its meetings in Cairo on Thursday. This morning two of the delgation members will confer: Maj Gen Avraham Tamir and General al-Majdub. In the initial stage the debates will apparently be dedicated to security arrangements although Egypt is still waiting for Israel's answers regarding the settlements in the Sinai approaches since this is the main disputed issue. Changes in the composition of the military delegations are also possible. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori will not return to Cairo.

Further Details

LD160632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] It has also been announced that the Israel-Egypt Military Committee will reconvene in Cairo on Thursday and will probably continue into next week. Our reporter in Cairo says the Israeli Gen Avraham Tamir will be meeting his Egyptian colleague General al-Majdub today to prepare for the reopening of the talks. Israel's Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will be flying back to Cairo on Thursday. Our reporter adds that although the Egyptians are waiting for Israeli replies on the issue of settlements, the discussions will deal mainly with security arrangements in a peace settlement.

Egypt To Issue No Statements

NC151600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--An official spokesman at the information ministry has stated the following:

Through a desire to provide a suitable atmosphere for the important discussions which will begin at noon tomorrow in Jerusalem, where the Political Committee stemming from the Cairo conference will meet, it has been decided that there is no reason for the issuance of various statements so that the best atmosphere may be provided for the committee to carry out its work. Such statements will only be issued when the public interest dictates this, and they will be attributed to responsible sources.

Salim Comments on Peace Momentum

NC161242Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 January--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim has affirmed that the momentum for peace in the Middle East which was started by President Anwar as-Sadat's historic initiative will not stop and the area will never revert to what it was before this initiative.

He noted the sweeping world support As-Sadat's bold initiative has received. He said that however Israel tries to place obstacles before peace, its attempts will be fruitless, because it is contrary to the world conscience, which has been unanimous in supporting the need for establishing peace in the Middle East. Mamduh Salim explained that if Israel continues to place obstacles in the way of peace, the Israeli people will confront the stands of their leaders and will demand that they guarantee the people's future and security within the framework of peace.

In a speech today at the opening session of the cultural challenge seminar, organized by the women's branch of the Arab Party of Egypt, Mamduh Salim stressed that peace is no doubt coming, irrespective of how long it takes to achieve it. He called for work henceforth for the postpeace period so the challenges of this period will not be a surprise to us.

Al-Jamasi Interview

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI GRANTS TV INTERVIEW

JN141926Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 14 January--Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war and war production minister, stated that Egypt has rejected the plan the Israeli side has submitted to the Military Committee meeting regarding withdrawal from Sinai because it contradicts Egyptian sovereignty, since it calls for the presence of settlements and military airports after withdrawal in addition to some restrictions in the areas of the UN operations along the border and the demilitarized zones.

In a statement to be broadcast by Egyptian television this evening, General al-Jamasi disclosed details of this plan. He said that Israel proposes the establishment of an area for UN operations on the Egyptian border inside Sinai and another demilitarized zone with the continued presence of the existing Israeli settlements on the borders or the Gulf of Aqaba for a long period. Israel also proposes the continued presence of three airports inside our territory, two of which are on the Egyptian border. They are Al-Jurah airport in Rafah and Ra's An-Naqab airport close to Eilat in addition to (Ra's Misrani) airport near Sharm ash-Shaykh. The Israeli side proposed that the period of withdrawal should take 3 to 5 years.

General al-Jamasi added: We debated this subject objectively from political and military standpoints, but it did not get the approval of the Egyptian side. The principal problem in the discussions was the subject of the settlements and the subject of the airports.

General al-Jamasi stressed that the presence of the Israeli settlements which the Israeli side demands after withdrawal would violate Egyptian sovereignty and conflict with the nature of peace. He said that we discussed the issue of airfields in a purely objective and military way. There were differences in views on this subject. However, through persistence and objective (?discussions) based on pllitical and military foundations, many obstacles can be overcome. Al-Jamasi further said that if we consider these settlements from a legal point of view, we find that international law holds them to be illegal. The Security Council, including the United States, unanimously agreed in (?November) 1976 that these settlements are illegal as long as they are established on our land. This resolution was supported by another UN resolution in 1977. The entire world community calls for the removal of these settlements. General al-Jamasi said that these few settlements are an obstacle to peace. We discussed this subject more than once and so far have not reached a final decision.

Referring to the Egyptian proposal presented to the Military Committee meetings, General al-Jamasi said that the Egyptian proposal is summed up in the establishment of a buffer zone on the border between the two countries in which UN forces will be stationed as they are now under the disengagement of forces and another zone [words indistinct] arms in accordance withe Security Council Resolution 242.

This zone will be close to the border east of Al-'Arish to Ra's an-Naqab. Then agreement on the size of the forces in the area can be reached so that no military clash will take place in the future. General al-Jamasi said that we cannot say that the Military Committee talks which lasted 48 hours and the military talks in Janaklis failed because the vestiges of 25 years and the effects of the Israeli occupation following the 1967 setback are numerous and there are various viewpoints. There are points of agreement and points of disagreement and the negotiations are aimed at surmounting the obstacles and difficulties confronting the two sides.

The following is the text of the interview by General al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war minister, to Arab television:

Question: Concerning the questions circulating among the citizens, let us try to clarify some of the issues of concern to Egyptian, Arab and international public opinion. The first thing we would like Your Excellency to talk to us about is the Egyptian and the Israeli ideas which appeared during the Military Committee meetings. Could we call these ideas proposals?

Answer: I can summarize the Israeli proposal which was officially presented to Egypt very simply. Israel proposes that the United Nations operate in an area along the Egyptian borders inside Sinai. Israel also proposes a demilitarized zone. The Israeli settlements which exist along the borders or on the Gulf of Aqaba will remain for a long time. A number of airfields--two airfields on the Egyptian border, namely, Al-Jurah airfield near Rafah and Ra's an-Naqab airfield near Eilat and also the (Ra's Misrani) airfield near Sharm ash-Shaykh--these three airfields will also remain on Egyptian territory. The proposed period of withdrawal is 3-5 years. Briefly this is the Israeli proposal.

We have discussed the political and the military aspects of this proposal and have found that it violates Egyptian sovereignty because settlements and military airfields will remain after the withdrawal. There would also be some restrictions in the UN zone and along the borders restrictions would also be present in the demilitarized zones. We held objective discussions on this proposal and made out viewpoints clear on both the political and military levels. The proposal was not accepted by the Egyptian side.

We presented an Egyptian proposal which can be summarized as follows: There should be a demilitarized zone along the border between the two sides in which the UN forces will operate just as they are operating today so as to separate the two forces. There will also be another zone which would be demilitarized also in accordance with and as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 242. This zone would also be near the borders from the east of Al-'Arish to Ra's an-Naqab. The level of forces of the two sides would be agreed on so as to avoid a military confrontation in the future.

The main issue we discussed in this regard was the settlements and airfields. The Israeli side demanded that the settlements remain and we regarded this as violating Egyptian sovereignty, especially after withdrawal and the end of the occupation. The settlements are also opposed to the very nature of peace. This was a main point. We also discussed the issue of the airfields from purely military considerations. There were differences in viewpoints on this issue, but if we persevere and continue the discussions, resorting to objective discussion built on political and military foundations, many difficulties faced by the two sides can be overcome.

Question: From the statements made during the meetings of the Military Committee and after the first round of these meetings, some people said that the talks have reached an impasse. Some radio stations went so far as to say that the military talks have failed. Is this true?

Answer: I would like to say that the military talks in the last 48 hours and those which preceded them in Janaklis cannot be considered a failure after 48 hours. There are many vestiges. Thirty years have passed and the repercussions after the Israeli occupation following the 1967 setback are very great. Thus we cannot say that the talks have failed. However, there are divergent views--points of agreement and points of disagreement--and the negotiations aim at surmounting the obstacles so as to overcome the difficulties facing the two sides.

Question: Let us talk in detail, particularly on those topics which the local and world information media greatly concentrate on, namely, the settlements. What is the military value of settlements to Israel, especially since Israel has announced that the Israeli army wil defend them?

Answer: As I have said, the presence of the settlements in Sinai after signing a peace agreement would in fact be in violation of Egyptian sovereignty. At the same time, if we discuss this topic from the military point of view we will find that there is a small number of settlements in the Sinai. These have no military importance because it is not settlements which will defend Israel. Even at the time of mobilization or war, most of the inhabitants of these settlements are conscripted into the Israeli army. Therefore, they do not guarantee security to or achieve security for Israel. I am convinced that militarily these settlements do not guarantee security; on the contrary, they obstruct peace efforts because they stand as an obstacle in the way of signing a peace agreement. The Israeli side might have psychological reasons caused by a long-time presence in these areas. Thus they have a feeling which they are defending. It could be that the internal discussions among the different parties inside Israel create this strong impression about the settlements. I wish the topic of settlements would disappear. It is possible that it could end in the Sinai and that no Israeli settlements will exist in Sinai at all. This will not threaten Israel's security, but will insure peace by achieving peace between the two sides.

Question: Can we say that it is a psychological need or a party maneuver?

Answer: I think it is a psychological need and an internal party aspect inside Israel. I believe that there could be a solution to this subject if the Israeli people were convinced of the unimportance of these settlements from the military point of view. The solution is the removal of these settlements from our territories so as to achieve peace, the objective of the two sides.

Question: How does this agree with what Israel has announced regarding its agreement to withdraw to Egypt's international borders?

Answer: In fact, this represents a kind of contradiction when there is agreement to withdraw to Egypt's international borders while at the same time some Israeli settlements are to remain inside our territory. There is no doubt that there is a contradiction between the two ideas. Therefore, this problem must be solved by convincing the Israeli side that the settlements do not constitute a security belt for Israel and have no military value. As I have said, this is a psychological need more than anything else.

Question: The U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK has published statements by Israeli officials saying that the presence of these settlements does not constitute a threat to peace. Will this not obstruct the march of peace if they maintain this attitude?

Answer: I believe this will obstruct the march of peace. I reiterate that if there is agreement on total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, that is, from Egyptian territory, this will mean that there should not be any Israeli settlements within our territory. The two contradict one another. If there is withdrawal, that is, total Israeli withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces and removal of the settlements existing within our territories, then peace will be achieved. It is suspicion that is obstructing peace. People have stressed this in the information media and demonstrated it clearly. I believe the time will come when Israel is convinced from the military, security and defense viewpoints that the removal of these settlements with peace is better than the existence of the settlements obstructing peace.

Question: Was this issue suddenly raised? For example, was it raised at your discussions with Weizman in Janaklis? We are under the impression that it was suddenly raised during recent days.

Answer: The fact is that it was raised in Janaklis and at the Military Committee more than once. We differed in our viewpoints. Each one is defending his position on this subject. If we were to look at the settlements from the legal standpoint or from the standpoint of international law, we would find that the Security Council has resolved that they are illegal since they are on our territory. This was in November 1976. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Security Council members--unanimously, including the United States. This resolution was supported by a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1977. If we were to consider the settlements from the legal standpoint or from the aspect of the world community, we would find that these opinions support the removal of these settlements.

If we set aside the legal viewpoint, we find that if there is peace between us and mutual security measures are taken between us, these few settlements should not be an obstacle in the way of peace. This was discussed more than once. It was discussed once, twice, three, four and five times. Until this moment we have not arrived at a final decision after exchanging our viewpoints.

Question: Concerning Israeli Defense Minister Weizman, was his departure sudden or prearranged?

Answer: The fact is we agreed to hold the meetings of the Military Committee beginning 11 January, and the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem beginning 16 January. We have discussed our ideas and only determined the points of agreement and disagreement. General Weizman saw fit to return to Israel for consultations with his government concerning the results we have achieved so far. I did the same thing with the foreign minister. We discussed the results achieved. Therefore, his departure is not sudden. From the day he arrived, we agreed that he would stay 2-3 days and then return to Israel to submit a report about the results before the meeting of the Political Committee. Thus it was not sudden but was prearranged.

Question: During the discussions, in which there were points of agreement and of disagreement, has the Israeli concept of security based on land changed? Has this concept changed after the president's initiative?

Answer: The fact is General Weizman was asked this question. He said certain concepts in the Israeli security theory after the 1973 war have changed while others remain firm and continue to exist. He is right concerning this subject. However, after the president's initiative another concept which still exists must change, namely, will it be land or peace? Land and peace contradict one another.

We want our own land to be returned to us. They want peace. We are thus in harmony with one another that the land should be returned to its owners and peace achieved between the two sides. The equation is very simple. But also on this very point the Israeli mentality still needs time to change its concept. I hope this concept will change by convincing the Israeli people and officials that a small number of Israeli settlements in the Sinai is not the guarantee of security, but rather the return of land and achievement of peace with many guarantees for both sides will achieve peace. [sentence as received]

Question: Then there is still a traditional stand because the peace initiative was supposed to have changed everything. The initiative transcended the expectations of everyone. It was supposed that the Israelis' ideas about security would undergo a total change, especially since the good will, coupled with its practical application, came from the Egyptian side. The man in the street says that if any issue related to territories remains unresolved between us and Israel, there will be no peace for a generation at least. The man in the street says we still have a piece of territory. [sentence as received] Therefore, if Israel really wants real peace, nothing should remain unresolved between the Israelis and the Egyptians. In this case no war will take place between them and us.

Answer: I agree that at the conclusion of a peace agreement [ittifaqiyat as-salam] no unresolved issues should remain, particularly from the territorial viewpoint. The territory issue is very delicate: the issue of our territories up to the international boundaries is very delicate. Like the man in the street I do not accept any infringement on our territory. If in the future the principle of negotiations on this issue of territory is accepted--God willing there will be no discussions on this issue and the problem will be solved--the coming generation will suffer.

We want peace--peace based on justice and right--and this issue must be objectively dealt with and discussed mainly in Israel.

Question: There will be no cause for war?

Answer: There will be no cause for another war.

Question: Your Excellency, you announced yesterday to the press that Egypt had presented two main demands for complete withdrawal and mutual security. We would like you to explain issue of mutual security.

Answer: At the Military Committee meetings we discussed two main issues: complete Israeli withdrawal to the international borders and mutual security. This mutual security will come after peace is established and agreed on between us, after complete Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory and after the Israeli settlements and the border airfields disappear. There must be measures of mutual security between the two sides. Israel is very sensitive on the security issue and it explained its position in detail during the Military Committee meetings. We also have a need for security. We defend Sinai and Egypt and thus arrangements should be made for mutual security.

What constitutes arrangements for mutual security? A UN force must exist to separate the forces in Sinai, a force like the one at present. If we put UN forces between the two sides, we will then have mutual security. There must be a demilitarized zone--the area of the zone has not been agreed upon--which will achieve a sort of mutual security for them and for us. This zone will be demilitarized. This means that it will contain only light weapons and a police force. Guns should not have a range which will allow them to hit the other side. This will provide mutual security. There must be warning stations on our side and on their side. Those on our side will be run by us and they will operate their own warning stations. This will insure that there will be no Israeli soldiers or civilians on our side and no Egyptian soldiers or civilians on Israeli territory. This will give both sides an early warning. This is a kind of mutual security. There will be a military committee on the borders to discuss any issues or military problems which might crop up. This is also a kind of mutual security. There are many measures--perhaps seven or eight--which can contribute to achieving mutual security or to preventing an accidental outbreak of war due to miscalculation.

Question: Has agreement been reached on some of the reciprocal security measures you mentioned?

Answer: In fact we have agreed in principle on the presence of UN emergency forces along the border and in demilitarized zones. We discussed many other issues, but we have not reached what we can call resolutions, that is, we have not specified anything in detail. We exchanged a host of ideas and agreed on some of them. When we reach the stage of enforcing these ideas, we will define them on maps. Thus we have not yet defined them on maps.

Question: What about the period of withdrawal?

Answer: Regarding a withdrawal, Israel has proposed a period of 3-5 years. We consider this a very long time. If we consider the military situation, from our point of view the shorter the time the more chances there will be for a kind of stable military situation between the two sides. I think that a period of 3 years is very exaggerated. After we discuss this period in light of actual military possibilities, we will find that the period will be much shorter.

Question: After his arrival in Tel Aviv yesterday, Weizman said that there was agreement on dividing Sinai into three zones. What is Your Excellency's comment on this?

Answer: I have read this statement. If we consider what was said about a buffer zone on the border where UN forces will operate and about another demilitarized zone, this means that there will be three [as received] zones. We agreed on this only in principle. The presence of UN emergency forces in a zone and the presence of a demilitarized zone will continue until we define this on maps. After that the picture will be clear. I hope it will be clear to everyone that we did not divide Sinai into three zones nor did we divide the Israeli southern area into three zones. We discussed principles and ideas, but did not carry them out. As soon as we achieve anything we will declare it frankly because the matter belongs to the people.

Question: Your Excellency said that the subjects over which there was disagreement are those of settlements and fields. What is the Israeli pretext for the presence of the three airfields Your Excellency mentioned?

Answer: They do have pretexts for retaining Rafah airfield and Ra's an-Naqab airfield in particular. As for (Ra's Misrani) airfield near Sharm ash-Shaykh, it is a different matter. Basically they have their own views of security, that is, these airfields must be operated for a long period to achieve security in the area and until stability is reached, particularly since the problem will not vanish overnight. They want time. They want to retain these airfields for a long period of time. They stated their military views. We also stated our military views on this subject as well as our political standpoint because these airfields are inside our territory. A matter which violates our sovereignty. I believe that this issue will be tackled from the military standpoint in the future. We may find a solution regarding these airfields.

Question: Weizman said yesterday after his arrival in Tel Aviv that the coming meetings of the Military Committee will depend on the results of the Political Committee meetings. What will happen?

Answer: In fact, the subjects that will be discussed in the Political Committee are closely linked with the subjects discussed in the Military Committee. On this basis the Political Committee will inevitably make progress so that we may begin our work in the light of an agreed political decision. I agree with this completely and we are agreed on this. The work of the Military Committee in the coming stage or the resumption of the work of the Military Committee must be based on the political resolutions adopted there.

Question: As a military negotiator, which do you think is a more difficult: Fighting war or negotiating peace?

Answer: They are actually both difficult for me. The subject of war is very difficult and its problems are many. The subject of peace is also difficult and its problems are many. Each has its own character, difficulties and consequences. However, the consequences of war are blood, bitterness, displacement, losses and such things; peace is the better because it achieves prosperity and happiness for man.

Question: One last question, General. An information media war is currently underway. Has this influenced or is it influencing the work of the Military Committee and the destiny of peace itself?

Answer: I believe in the words of the president that we do not want to engage in a verbal or information media war with the other side. I believe perfectly in these words and wish the Military Committee could work in quietness and that our work would be away from bright lights. I had no intention of coming here, but did so at the request of the minister of information to clarify matters to the public. I had to respond to this request. But the constant presence of information media is harassing the committees. The statements made are conveyed in a distorted manner and thus influence the negotiator or at least his psychological mood. In the Military Committee it was often pointed out that such a radio station said this, that such a paper wrote that, or that such an official said this or that.

I think that we will achieve better results if our work is kept away from bright lights. Israel or the Israeli press asked for a press conference on 12 January because, as I was told by General Weizman, the reaction in Israel to the work of the Military Committee on the first day was ugly, while the fact is that we had not achieved much that first day. The Egyptian and world press also wanted to know much.

I wish we could refrain from making too many statements or using strong language. As long as we are after peace, everything should go on quietly, especially from the military point of view. Before we comment we must realize that there are many problems. When we say "a buffer zone," it is early to say buffer zone along the border between the two sides. We are asked about the size of a buffer zone on which we have not yet agreed. The radio station may say tomorrow it is 30 km. People then wonder how far this goes into our territory or that of Israel. We have not agreed on such things yet. Will every day yield results? No.

The first disengagement took about a month and a half, and was obstructed for a period of time in one of the stages. Then came the second disengagement which took us months, then stumbled, then resumed and was completed after taking a long time. Now if the problem of the entire Middle East question is being solved and if it is required to submit a report to public opinion every day, this would be a very difficult operation from the military standpoint. I also wish that the time might come when the information media will ease our burden, especially that of the Military Committee.

Question: This does not prevent some clarification from occasionally being made because there are people who make interpretations which might be wrong.

Answer: I agree perfectly. After a reasonable period of time we should report to the public, telling them what has been accomplished. There is no doubt that every accomplishment should be told to the public.

As-Sadat Cancels Engagements

NC161557Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 16 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 January--An official source at the president's office has said that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has decided to cancel all his engagements for 10 days starting today in order to free himself to study some aspects of the Middle East question and follow the progress of the current discussions.

KING HUSAYN PHONES AS-SADAT, SUPPORTS STAND

JN151227Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today phoned President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. He expressed his support for his excellency's firm stand toward Israel's attempt to obstruct peace efforts and hinder the endeavors to achieve an overall settlement based on the principles of right and justice which the world has concurred on, namely, complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and free self-determination for the Palestinians in their homeland.

His majesty stressed to his excellency the nation's appreciation of President as-Sadat's continued principled firm stand, stated since he began his peace initiative, that a comprehensive settlement must be achieved consistent with legitimate Arab rights and interests and the requirements of just peace.

HUSAYN SENDS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF HUMPHREY

JN151519Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to the president of the U.S. Senate expressing his condolences over the death of Senator Hubert Humphrey, member of the Senate and former U.S. vice president.

His majesty also sent a cable of condolences to the widow of the late senator.

AMMAN DAILY LAUDS AS-SADAT'S JERUSALEM POST WARNING

JN140842Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "Egypt Will Not Be Left Alone"]

[Text] President as-Sadat's statement to the Jerusalem POST is a strong and frank warning to Israel, placing on it the responsibility of wasting the essence of his initiative and undermining its bases if Israeli officials continue in their policy of stalling and intransigence in order to retain the occupied land.

It is clear from this warning that, as President as-Sadat has said, the spark of his initiative did not reach the minds of these officials. It is also clear that he does not regret his initiative, for he did not want to leave Israel with any excuse for being apprehensive about a just peace, based on its withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

What President as-Sadat told the Jerusalem POST frankly means that he places the regaining of the usurped Arab rights above his initiative. It also means that he cannot sacrifice any of these rights as a price for continuing or saving his initiative from failure, even if this requires him to tender his resignation.

It seems that Israel has not yet understood that everything which has happened in the Arab arena as a result of the Egyptian president's initiative will never prevent the reunification of the Arab ranks and that the failure of the initiative might be an element which would speed up this reunification. Israel has not yet understood that if this initiative fails, it will definitely be a condemnation of Israel before the entire world and tantamount to an appeal to all the Arabs to forge ahead to regain the usurped rights and bring a just peace, no matter what the sacrifices.

It should be pointed out that the United States will also be responsible if it allows Israeli intransigence to undermine the initiative and push the area toward grave dangers. Washington will be in an unenviable position if things go unchecked, because it will then have to choose between faithfulness to its "moral" responsibility and principles proclaimed by President Carter, or returning to its traditional and unconditional support for Israel. The extremely grave results which might ensue from the second choice will not only harm the status of the United States in the Arab world but will also open the doors of the area to waves of violence engendered by feelings of failure and bitterness.

At any rate, and no matter what the circumstances, Egypt will not be left alone if Israel aborts President as-Sadat's initiative.

PAPERS STRESS ARAB UNITY FOR NEXT STAGE

JN150730Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AR-RA'Y today says: Israel, as we have known for the last 30 years, has not changed and has not learned the lessons of the recent past. Israel has not tried to deceive us either, but has said clearly that it wants the Arab lands. It wants parts of Sinai on the pretext of security. It wants all the West Bank and the Gaza sector on the pretext of protecting its existence. It wants all the Syrian Heights because they constitute a deadly danger to its settlements in the north. Israel has said what it wants. Why then all this sadness over this clear, frank stand of Israel? Why do we want to save Israel despite itself, as George Ball, a U.S. presidential adviser, said on the eve of assuming his post at the White House.

AR-RA'Y continues: Israel still believes that we lack the power to make decisions and that from the political standpoint we are stupid. The Jews want to take without giving anything in return. Since As-Sadat's initiative has led only to these hardline Israeli stands based on determination to keep the occupied Arab territories on the pretext of security, which not even one single Jew has enjoyed for centuries, why then we do not look for a more useful and more beneficial approach? Why not take the initiative of rallying Arab ranks in the aftermath of their division and split because of a casual mistake in the assessment of Israel's intentions, particularly as Israel has very clearly manifested its aggressive, expansionist intentions?

AR-RA'Y concludes: We have always believed that the issue of peace is an Arab decision and must remain so. However, it remains for us to wait until the Arabs are unanimous on this decision. In order for us not to remain, in Israel's view, the nation which lacks the power to make decisions and the nation ruled by stupid politicians, let us prove, at least once, that our nation is the opposite of the Israeli concept.

Commenting on the same subject, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says: The Arabs should use As-Sadat's initiative politically to corner Israel and to hold it internationally responsible for the failure of the peace efforts and for all other consequences stemming from its stands which have led to this result. This requires an Arab effort in which all Arab states must participate whether they participated in the initiative, gave it a chance to be judged by results or rejected it right from the beginning. The second step is to restore the spirit of Arab solidarity, which was manifest in the first days of the October war, since the situation in our area has become clearer than at any other time and since Israel's way out, in its view, is to take advantage of its military superiority.

AL-AKHBAR SAYS REJECTION OF PEACE INITIATIVE MEANS WAR

JN160821Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Jordanian newspapers today speak about Israel's maneuvers to abort the peace initiative under the excuse of security.

Speaking about this, AL-AKHBAR says: The curcumstances surrounding the convening of the Egyptian-Israeli joint Political Committee today make optimism concerning its possible outcome a kind of a gamble based on wishful thinking.

AL-AKHBAR adds: There is no doubt that the failure of the peace initiative is more dangerous than its success. In view of the new situation, the call for an Arab summit conference for consultations and for making a suitable pan-Arab decision with a view to assuming every responsibility and making every effort is now more necessary than ever. The factors of Arab harmony continue to exist because President as-Sadat, who assumed responsibility for the initiative with courage, also undertook to announce the results with courage and responsibility too. He did not relinquish the national or pan-Arab interests when he saw Israel trying to make him do so.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say: The rejection of peace can never mean the indifinite continuation of the no war, no peace situation. Rejection of peace means war and Egypt is still, as it was, the number one Arab power. In view of this, and in light of what we see and feel about the enemy's clinging to our land and his insistence on expansion at our expense, we must rebuild the unity of Arab ranks with all their human, political, and material resources with a view to creating an Arab reality which will convince Israel that we have another option and different.

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN

JN140939Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0912 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 14 January--Commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Staff Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir this morning left Amman at the head of a military delegation for a visit to the fraternal Republic of Pakistan in response to an official invitation from the chief martial law administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The visit will last several days.

RADIO REPORTS AS-SADAT RESIGNATION THWARTED BY U.S.

JN161153Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1124 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--A responsible Egyptian source has stated that President as-Sadat submitted his resignation to the Egyptian National Security Council but was compelled to withdraw it in the face of the council's refusal to accept it and under unprecedented U.S. pressure.

The source added that the past 2 days witnessed a mounting feeling in Egypt that a dead end had been reached, particularly after the activities of the joint military committee in Egypt. As-Sadat considered that his initiative had failed and this prompted him to submit his resignation.

The source further said that intensified and continuous efforts took place between the Egyptian vice president and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo yesterday to avert the occurrence of grave developments in Egypt.

LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN160909Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus arrived in Damascus at 0930 today. He was received at the shooting club by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry Muwaffaq al-Qudsi.

Received by Khaddam

JN160910Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received in his office at 1000 today Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS 14 JAN

JN142322Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Syrian-Palestinian higher coordination committee met this evening at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Maj Gen Naji Jamil, Ba'th Party National Command member; and Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the armed forces. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, Salah Khalaf, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Talal Naji, Zuhayr Muhsin, Abu Salih, Abu Mahir, Fadil Sharryh and Salih Ra'fat.

The committee discussed the latest developments in the region in light of the additional concessions of the As-Sadat regime and its continued capitulatory approach in the interests of the aims of the settlement of capitulation proposed by the United States and Zionism. The committee affirmed that the events and developments have proved beyond a doubt the correct stands and conclusions reached at the Tripoli conference of confrontation and steadfastness and at the general popular conference. This capitulatory approach has made As-Sadat very weak in the face of enemy intransigence. The enemy is now dictating to As-Sadat the terms of complete surrender and is demanding parts of Egyptian territory.

All this is a step toward establishing and enlarging the settlements on the West Bank, in Gaza, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and usurping the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, particularly their right to return, to determine their own destiny and to set up an independent state under the leadership of the PLO. Begin's proposal on self-rule and As-Sadat's readiness to accept it as a basis to deal with the rights of the Palestinian people prove the level which those who have taken the way of treason have reached. The meeting to be held in occupied Jerusalem under U.S. auspices is only a new link in the chain which will lead to the implementation of the plan aimed at imposing the Zionist terms of expanding at the expense of Arab and Palestinian territories, denying the rights of the Palestinian people and opening the doors of the Arab region to the imperialist-Zionist invasion.

Considering all this the committee has reaffirmed the continuation of the national and nationalistic policy drawn up at the Tripoli conference to consolidate all the Arab national forces against the U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat conspiracy which is now being implemented. The continuation of this policy with the support of Syria, the PLO and the states of confrontation and steadfastness in the basic line of action to face this conspiracy. The committee considers that the policy of capitulation is facing ever-increasing isolation due to the Arab uprisings, particularly inside the occupied Palestinian territories and also in Egypt and other Arab states.

In light of all this the committee has made a number of decisions and resolutions and decided to contact the sides of the national front for confrontation and steadfastness so that working meetings can be held soon to continue the implementation of the tasks imposed by the present situation.

The higher coordination committee, out of its belief in the unified Syrian-Palestinian attitude within the context of the Tripoli decisions, affirms that what has been achieved so far represents steps on the long path of struggle to abort the conspiracy and achieve the aims of our nation in liberating its territories and regaining the rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

Al-ASAD RECEIVES HEAD OF ARAB REPUBLICS CONFEDERATION

JN141330Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received 'Ahmad al-Khatib, prime minister of the Confederation of Arab Republics. During the meeting talks were held on the affairs of the Confederation of Arab Republics.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

JN141412Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, People's Assembly speaker, this afternoon received a Lebanese parliamentary delegation made up of Nathim al-Qadiri, Shafiq Badr, Anwar as-Sabah, August Bakhus and Bisharah Mansi, legal adviser at the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. This visit is part of the efforts underway for coordination between the two parliaments in legislative matters and foreign affairs of mutual interest.

During the meetings Al-Halabi discussed the conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab homeland, especially against Syria. He expressed the need to direct the efforts of Syrian parliamentarians against this conspiracy.

At the end of the meeting the People's Assembly speaker asked the committee of Arab and foreign affairs and of constitutional and legislative affairs at the People's Assembly to continue contacts and hold urgent meetings to translate these broad lines into practical reality and put the agreed principles into practice.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and foreign affairs committee; Dr Fu'ad Dib, chairman of the constitutional and legislative affair's committee; Sa'id Sulayman, secretary of the assembly; and several assembly members. They reviewed the broad lines of cooperation between the two parliaments in the legislative and foreign affairs fields.

The Lebanese parliamentary delegation arrived in Damascus this morning.

TISHRIN SAYS AS-SADAT POLICY HAS PROVED FAILURE

JN150742Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on As-Sadat's statements to the Jerusalem POST and OCTOBER in its column "Behind the News," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that the two statements are a frank admission by As-Sadat of the failure of his policy and inability to remove even 1 percent of the psychological barriers, which he said he had destroyed. He was unable to convince the Israeli rulers to go back on their intransigent stands regarding the two basic questions of peace in the Middle East, that is, total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the national rights of the Palestinian people.

TISHRIN adds: It is odd that in summarizing the results of his venture, President as-Sadat agrees with the Arab sides which opposed his capitulatory step. The difference between President as-Sadat and these sides is that the latter, headed by Syria, predicted the consequences of the capitulatory risk, while As-Sadat is coming close to admitting the same after having offered Israel everything--what he has and what he does not have, what is his right and what is not his right.

Today it can safely be said that President as-Sadat's efforts have merely led to the failure and defeat of his trend and policy and have confirmed the soundness of the stands adopted by Syria and the other parties in the Arab confrontation front. It has been proved beyond question that making concessions to occupiers and aggressors cannot lead to peace. It only encourages them to excesses, flouting and exaggeration in an attempt to impose terms of capitulation. This is not the experience of only the Arabs with Israel but is also the experiences of all nations with occupiers.

Whoever believes or pretends to believe, as President as-Sadat has done, that theatrical games, amicable speeches and moral sermons can change the nature of political regimes or material facts is either beset by illusions or is a conniver.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE IN MOSCOW; MEETS WITH KOSYGIN, OTHERS

For Moscow reportage on the visit of Algerian President Boumediene to Moscow, and his talks with Soviet leaders, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 12 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE PAYS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade TANJUG reportage on the 13-15 January visit to Yugoslavia of President Boumediene, including the text of the communique issued at the conclusion of the visit, see the Yugoslavia section of the 16 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

LIBYA

PAPER CRITICIZES AS-SADAT, 'LACKEY NUMAYRI'

LD131534Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--Under the title: Another plot against the Libyan people, AL-ISBU' AS-SIYASI in its issue today writes:

As-Sadat paid a visit to Sudan and renewed his alliance of intrigue with his lackey Numayri; he renewed his pact and his alliance of intrigue. The ruler of Egypt during his meetings with Numayri was joined by the vanquished Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Egyptian minister of war and war production. They claimed that there was a Libyan-Soviet plot being hatched against Sudan as a coverup for a forthcoming aggression being planned by the ruler of Egypt against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Moreover, the threads of intrigue followed hell-bent by the spy ruler of Egypt have entered a grave stage and the Egyptian information media began to bless agression against the Libyan people.

It appears that this spy has not been deterred by the severe blow dealt him by the Libyan people so this time he needs a harsher blow. If the first beating did not bring him back to his senses and did not make him understand the truth about the Libyan people, then we tell him: Go ahead and try and see what awaits you. As-Sadat by his behavior has proved that he is a dog who loves only the one who throttles him, for he does not get fed up of bowing to 'Ezer Weizman, the Zionist minister of war. Weizman has spent his life killing Egyptians and now devotes his time to personally humiliating As-Sadat.

We address the Egyptian people and the Egyptian Army to warn them against the destructive abyss which this Zionist spy is leading them toward, because after losing them their freedom and dignity and surrendering their lands, today he is taking them their freedom and dignity and surrendering their land; today he is taking them into a hostile adventure against a sister people the consequences of which will be very dark for the Egyptians. We address the sons of the Egyptian people to save themselves from this tyrant who is leading them like a flock of sheep to a deadly end. Once again we say that any hostile move by this tyrant in Egypt will receive our severe retaliation and we shall let him know who the Libyan people are and how retaliation is taken against the plotters.

JANA REPORTS ARRIVAL OF U.S. SENATOR FOR VISIT

LD160942Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 January--U.S. Senator James McClure arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit of ten days at the invitation of the foreign liaison bureau of the People's General Congress. He was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by the head of the bureau and members of his staff.

McClure told JANA that the basic aim of his visit was to bolster relations between the Libyan Arab people and the American people and exchange views with the general secretariat of the People's General Congress.

MAURITANIA

OFFICIAL DENIES POLISARIO DESTROYED TRAIN

PA141753Y Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Noukchott, Jan 14 (AFP)--The director of Mauritania's national mining and industry company, Ismael Ould Amar, today denied reports that the POLISARIO Front [word indistinct] Western Sahara destroyed an ore-carrying train on January 7.

He said that apart from an accidental derailment two weeks ago and harassment of the base at Choum on Thursday, there had been no incident in the northern region since December 18, when POLISARIO units attacked Tmeimichat.

Reliable sources said the [word indistinct] which attacked Choum was not pursued, [word indistinct] by French or Mauritanian (?forces), but merely followed by a Breguet ATL antique spotter plane. [as received]

MOROCCO

MINISTER WARNS SPAIN AGAINST INTERFERING IN SAHARA

TA141949Y Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 14 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 14 (AFP)--Moroccan Information Minister Larbi Khattabi today warned Spain about possible interference in its former Saharan colony.

The move followed Thirsday's unanimous vote by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish parliament in favor of the Saharan people's right to self-government in whatever form they choose. The committee urged the Spanish Government to ask the United Nations to organize talks so the Saharan people could attain their right.

"Any attempt to alter current reality," the Moroccan minister said, "can only be regarded as an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Morocco and Mauritania."

The two countries shared the former Spanish territory under a 1975 agreement that came into effect when Spain withdrew the next year.

Mr Khattabi said the conflict involved "a gang of Algerian-backed and trained mercenaries, most of whom have no links with the former Western Sahara." It could be solved only by the Organization of African Unity, he said, adding that the OAU's first task was to investigate the kidnapings of Moroccans and Mauritanians by the POLISARIO Front.

CIVILIANS MURDERED, KIDNAPED NEAR ALGERIAN BORDER

LD132130Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jan 78 LD

[Interior Ministry statement]

[Excerpts] At 1030 on 11 January 1978 on the road linking (Zhaq) and Akka in the Tantan region 25 km southwest of (Zhaq) village and 50 km from the Algeria-Morocco border, an armed gang coming from Algeria attacked two civilian trucks. The first truck was carrying two families and the second truck food supplies. It appears that the aim of the attackers was to hijack the two trucks and the people to make them join the families who are detained in Algeria.

In the face of resistance, the attackers cowardly murdered two of the people in the first truck. They also murdered the driver of the second truck who refused to obey their orders to follow them. They unloaded the second truck and took the food supplies away with them. The attackers kidnaped the remaining people.

It must be stressed here that for about 4 months now, the Saharan regions which come under Moroccan sovereignty had not been a field for any clashes or any operation of any kind. Because the mercenaries and their masters were incapable of coming out into the open in the Sahara or of confronting the royal armed forces, they have reverted to the practice of murdering and kidnaping innocent unarmed civilians as they had done in Mauritania against other civilians, namely, Africans.

In the face of these acts which defy all international laws, the Government of the Moroccan Kingdom will not, naturally, stand with arms folded. It will do all it can to remove the harm from these innocent citizens and will work for respect of dignity and national sovereignty by all.

SUDAN

AIR FLIGHTS RESUME BETWEEN SUDAN, ETHIOPIA

NC151804Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1737 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 15 January--The air flights between Sudan and Ethiopia were resumed today after about a 7-month suspension.

A Boeing aircraft of the Ethiopian Airlines Company landed in Khartoum airport at noon today carrying a 25-member Ethiopian delegation headed by the director general of the Ethiopian airlines company.

Sudan and Ethiopia had agreed at the end of last month to resume the air flights between them upon the recommendations of the OAU mediation committee which concluded its activities in the capital of Sierra Leone in the middle of last month.

TUNISIA

RADIO REPORTS ON VISIT BY HOUARI BOUMEDIENE

LD152210Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Official talks between President Bourguiba and Algerian President Boumediene began at 1810 hours today at Carthage Palace. Present at the talks on the Tunisian side were: Prime Minister Nouira; Mohamed Fitouri Bourguiba, the foreign minister; and the Tunisian ambassador in Algeria. On the Algerian side were: the president's adviser Ibrahimi; Foreign Minister Bouteflika; Transport Minister Draia; and Finance Minister Benyahia.

The talks ended at 1915 hours. Prime Minister Nouira is giving a dinner party in honor of the guest.

Boumediene arrived earlier in Tunis and was met at the airport by Nouira and others. He told newsmen "that he came to greet the Tunisian people and to meet President Bourguiba and to exchange views in general."

Talks With Bourguiba

LD161237Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At 1210 today President Bourguiba met at the white hall at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The talks were attended on the Tunisian side by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira; special adviser to the president of the republic Habib Bourguiba Jr; Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri and Tunisian Minister to Algeria Mahmoud Mamouri. From the Algerian side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika; Transport Minister Ahmed Draia; Minister Adviser to the President of the Republic Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi; Finance Minister Mohamed Benyahia; and Ali el-Kafi, the Algerian ambassador to Tunisia.

Following the meeting, President Bourguiba gave a luncheon in honor of his guest, which was attended by members of the two sides.

At 1015 today at the Republican Palace at Carthage, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira had a talk with Algerian President Houari Boumediene in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri and Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Nouira's talks with Boumediene ended at noon today after lasting about 1 hour and 45 minutes.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO FRONT DESTROYS MAURITANIAN TRAIN

PA141438Y Paris AFP in English 1416 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Algiers, Jan 14 (AFP)--Guerrillas of the Western Saharan POLISARIO Liberation Front destroyed an ore-carrying train between the Mauritanian mining town of Zouirat and the port of Nouadhibou on January 7, the front said in a communique here today.

The front said explosives used to derail the train seriously damaged the 400-mile (650 km) track.

Meanwhile, in Nouakchott today, the director of the Mauritanian state mines and industry company, Ismael Ould Amar, said traffice on the line would be doubled as from Monday, January 16, in order to meet export orders.

No trains ran between October 25, when POLISARIO kidnapped 14 workers near the line and the beginning of December. Since then traffic had been reduced to about 30 per cent of total cpacity because of the security risk, Mr Amar said.

The company was only taking orders it knew it could meet, which meant exporting some 3,010,000 tons of iron ore this month, 500,001 [figures as received] less than the demand. The number of trains would be doubled "even if security on the line cannot be perfectly guaranteed," he said, adding, "we can no longer sit back with our arms folded. Whatever happens, we shall run the trains."

DEFENSE MINISTER ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING

LD151832Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (liberatied Territories) APS--The Saharan minister of defense has published the following communique:

The offensive launched by the Saharan People's Liberation Army [ALPS] at the beginning of January against the joint forces of agression of the annexationist regimes of Rabat and Nouakchott is continuing victoriously for our valiant fighters who are increasing armed operations against the enemy forces on the northern as well as the southern fronts.

The occupying armed forces were attacked in various places in areas of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in the first week of January and suffered considerable losses in men and equipment. These forces have again been the targets of deadly attacks.

In fact, after Gar-Cum Chgeg, Oued Bentili, Bou-Craa, Daoura and Lemisied, and also after the blowing up on 7 January 1978 of an ore train at Zouirat, one line inspection car and several locomotives and railroad cars, the ALPS launched a series of operations last week against enemy troop poitions on the southern front.

On the morning of 12 January, the communique continues, a unit of the ALPS set a deadly ambush to a monarchist unit in the Bir-Enzaran area. Eighteen Moroccan soldiers were killed in the fighting after which the defeated enemy unit retreated toward Dakhla.

Unable to contain our actions, the enemy forces called on the French Air Force. Immediately after the action, a Breguet Atlantic plane of the French Air Force flew for a long time over our troops right inside Western Sahara. It was later joined by fighter aircraft and a Broussard of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces stationed at Zouirat which was shot down by the ALPS in the fighting that followed. It was a Broussard No 119.

The pilot and the observers of this aircraft were taken prisoner by our fighters. They are quarter-master Sergeants Habib Boukaida and Ahmed Illal.

On the same day, toward nightfall, another unit of the ALPS attacked the garrison of Choum. 90 km from Atar, where combined Moroccan-Mauritanian forces are stationed.

The garrison which serves as a base for the agressive actions of enemy troops against our territory was harassed for several hours by heavy weapons. Four outposts of the Mauritanian troops were overrun by our fighters, who killed 37 Mauritanian soldiers and destroyed all the installations of the outposts and seized the weapons that were there. At Coum Meme considerable losses in men and equipment were caused. A more detailed account will be issued later.

On the northern front, the ALPS further stepped up pressure on the monarchist troops whose positions were attacked on 11 January 1978 by our fighters at Heggounia and Bir-Lahlou. In these attacks 36 enemy soldiers were killed and an unknown number wounded.

POLISARIO ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON DECEMBER OPERATIONS

LD080048Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] The POLISARIO Front released a communique last evening (7 January) giving the results of the military operations conducted by the Saharan resistance fighters in the Sahara against Moroccan and Mauritanian invading forces in December 1977. The communique indicated that, in the northern front, the operations involved southern Morocco, the Bucraa complex line, and the Tifariti region, where 358 Moroccan troops were killed, 229 others were injured or captured, and 59 military vehicles, 7 tanks and a number of weapons were destroyed.

The southern front, the communique said, was marked by direct intervention of the French Air Force, at the side of the Moroccan and Mauritanian troops, against the Saharan resistance fighters. But despite this intervention, in which destructive weapons were used, the forces of the Saharan Popular Army inflicted heavy losses on the enemy: two Jaguar planes were shot down and two others were hit. As for the Mauritanian troops, their losses were as follows: 615 troops killed and many others were wounded. On the other hand, 220 Mauritanian troops were captured, of whom 123 were killed by French Air Force raids. A number of Saharan fighters were killed, together with 32 civilians.

REPORTAGE ON DISAGREEMENT WITH EGYPT ON POLITICAL TALKS

Vance Trip Delayed

LD150638Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tomorrow's scheduled opening session of the joint Egypt-Israeli Political Committee in Jerusalem has been postponed. A brief announcement by the U.S. State Department spokesman early this morning said Egypt and Israel have failed to agree on an agenda for discussion of the Palestinian question. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance would not now be arriving in Israel today as planned. There was no immediate word on whether Vance would reschedule the trip. However, U.S. officials said they hoped the agenda differences could be settled quickly and they expected discussions between the U.S., Egypt and Israel to continue to this end.

The announcement came only 90 minutes before Vance was schedules to leave Washington at 5 a.m. Israel time. Earlier, U.S. officials had said Vance would be traveling to Jerusalem with an American compromise proposal for interim joint administration of the West Bank and Gaza leading to a referendum in which Palestinians would choose between a continued joint administration and a strong federal link with Jordan.

In his announcement State Department Spokesman Hodding Carter said Israel and Egypt had agreed on other matters, including a statement of principals on the nature of peace to be signed between the two countries.

Begin Reads Cabinet Statement

NC151215Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] We have been informed that the cabinet meeting has just ended. We will now switch over to our political correspondent Shalom Qital:

[Qital--live] Yes, at this moment the prime minister has left the cabinet conference room and would like to make a statement:

[Begin] At its session today the cabinet adopted a resolution on the agenda of the deliberations of the joint Political Committee: Following the adoption of this decision, the contents of which we have conveyed to the U.S. ambassador, there is a basis for believing that it will be accepted by Egypt as well. We have received no final word on the discussion which is going on at the moment between the U.S. ambassador and President as-Sadat. There is hope, however, that the matter will be agreed on by all parties, that is to say, by the governments of Israel, Egypt and the United States. If such is the case, the session of the joint Israeli-Egyptian political meeting will start as scheduled, tomorrow morning, and Secretary of State Vance will be present.

This is my statement. In the next few hours, we will certainly know what has been achieved in the talk between Mr Eilts and President as-Sadat.

[Qital] The prime minister is now repeating in English the statement which we have just heard in Hebrew. He has already announced that he is not prepared to answer questions at this stage. Therefore, because he is repeating the same things, we will return you to our studio. If he changes his mind and answers our questions, please return to us. For the moment, back to the studio.

Weizman on Military Talks

TA161133Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 16 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By HAZOFE political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] The cabinet, in its session yesterday, heard about the talks in the Military Committee from Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. According to various sources, Weizman said that the distance between the positions of Israel and Egypt was still great. The differences of opinion touched on a number of issues: the Israeli airfields in Sinai, Sharm ash-Shaykh and the settlements in the Rafah approaches and Shelomo Bay.

There was the impression that As-Sadat was trying to create a crisis around the conference yesterday in order to use the Americans, and he did indeed succeed in this. The texts of the proposals for the agenda were handed over to the sides in messages via the United States and the latter began to mediate. At first Secretary of State Cyrus Vance postponed his arrival in Jerusalem for fear that the conference would focus on the first argument over the agenda with his presence serving no purpose. Now, with the settling of the crisis, Cyrus Vance will also come.

Talks Postponed to 17 Jan

TA151614Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the deliberations of the Political Committee in Jerusalem have been postponed by 24 hours and will begin the day after tomorrow, 17 January.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Israel tomorrow and will participate in the deliberations.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Arrives

TA151628 [Editorial Report TA] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1615 GMT on 15 January relays live from Ben-Gurion Airport the arrival of Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil. The plane carrying the Egyptian foreign minister lands at 1620 GMT. He deplanes and is met by Foreign Minister Dayan. Dayan, speaking in English, makes the following welcoming statement:

"Your Excellency the Egyptian minister for foreign affairs, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil; honorable members of the Egyptian delegation; distinguished guests: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on your arrival in our country, in Israel. I want you to know that we are looking forward with much hope to the peace talks to be dealt between us. We shall listen very carefully and attentively to what you have to say, and on our side I want to promise you that we shall speak frankly and will be most forthcoming. At this moment, I just want to wish you an enjoyable time in Israel, in Jerusalem, and to wish all of us productive and fruitful talks. Thank you very much."

The Egyptian foreign minister, also speaking in English, says:

"Thank you, Mr Minister, for all your welcome and cordiality, and I think we will be responding in the same spirit you have explained--the sincerity to reach peace.

"I would like to start my statement here by recalling what President as-Sadat said in the Knesset a few weeks ago, namely, that we come with an open heart and an open mind to build together durable and just peace in the region and to avoid any Arab or Israeli bloodshed. The historical visit of President as-Sadat to Jerusalem and his memorable speech to the Knesset have initiated a new era and an active process which, with equity and seriousness, can lead toward genuine, just and durable peace in the Middle East.

"The meeting of the Political Committee due to open tomorrow [as heard] is an important step toward that goal. Having the honor of leading the Egyptian delegation, I am looking forward to trying to achieve tangible and concrete results. We are aware of the difficulties facing us but we should also all realize that we are at crucial crossroads. On our part, activated by our sense of responsibility, we have clearly proven our firm commitment to the establishment of true peace.

"Certain basic facts have to be faced with courage and clear vision; thus, there can be no peace with the occupation of land; there can be no peace with the denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination; there can be no durable peace if the peoples of our region cannot thus create conditions to live together with a sense of security. We will spare no efforts in order to achieve the noble goal of a just peace for all.

"President as-Sadat, by his initiative, has created a unique chance for us all to enter a better future for a people--to insure a better future for our people and our world, a chance where time is of essence. So let us invest it to the maximum and not just see it slipping away through our fingers. Let us hope and pray that we will be able to live up to the expectations of our people. Thank you very much."

U.S. Compromise Proposal

LD160630Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] The U.S. ambassador in Israel, Samuel Lewis, has confirmed that yesterday's crisis, in which it appeared that the talks might not get started at all, was overcome with the help of an American compromise proposal. In Washington the State Department spokesman explained that Israel had agreed to an Egyptian demand for the working out of a broad statement of principles that would lead to a comprehensive settlement and would make it possible to bring Jordan and Syria into the talks at a later date. One of the items on the draft agenda is understood to be headed: end of occupation.

Egypt, for her part, has accepted Israel's proposal that the nature of a peace settlement be discussed and its expression [put] in treaty form. However, the Egyptian spokesman in Jerusalem, Dr Mursi Sa'ud ad-Din, said yesterday that the agenda had not yet been finalized.

Agenda Reported; Dayan Satisfied

TA161036Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Shalom Qital has learned the details of the agenda for the Political Committee talks agreed on by the delegations of Israel and Egypt.

The agenda consists of three clauses: A) A declaration of principles that will guide the negotiations for a comprehensive peace agreement. B) In the second clause, it was agreed to have both Israeli and Egyptian versions. The Israeli version is entitled "instructions for the negotiations concerning the issues of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip." The Egyptian version: "instructions for the negotiations concerning the issues of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. C) The third clause deals with the components of a peace treaty between Israel and its neighbors in accordance with the principles of UN Resolution 242.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has expressed satisfaction with the agenda, saying that it suits our positions. He remarked that there are still several bones of contention and that we have not agreed on the results in advance. The foreign minister believes that the settlements are a political issue but he will not object if the Egyptians want to deal with this issue in the Military Committee. He emphasized that we do not need an agreement for our construction of Yamit.

Minister Dayan believes that the United States is playing a positive role in the negotiations. The United States supports As-Sadat's initiative but objects to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Personally, the foreign minister said, he believes that Israel needs the United States as an active mediator. We have conducted negotiations with Jordan for 10 years and have not reached a settlement.

DAVAR Notes Concessions

TA161119Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Israel has given in to most of the U.S.-Egyptian demands on the issues to be debated on the political Committee and in preparation for the possibility of texting a joint statement of intentions in the first week of the committee's debates. This is the evaluation of political sources in Jerusalem and are analyzing the political developments of the last 24 hours.

According to these sources, the United States put heavy pressure on the Israeli cabinet to show flexibility on the issues in dispute with Egypt. It appears that the main dispute was around two main issues--mention of the Israeli settlements in Sinai among the issues to be debated on the agenda and the texting of the Palestinian issue on the agenda. According to various sources, the main crisis with Egypt centered on the question of the Israeli settlements in Sinai, after the activity on the issue of the contradictory statements created a credibility crisis with the Egyptians with regard to the sincerity of Israeli intentions for peace. The second issue concerned the testing of the Palestinian question, where the Egyptians do not accept the textual format of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. As far as can be seen Israel also made a concession on the order of preferences in the agenda and agreed that the question of the nature of the peace would not be first on the agenda.

A negative impression was created in Jerusalem because of the ultimatum-type pressure used by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. This represents a source of concern with regard to possible use of pressure during the course of the negotiations on substantive issues.

The final agenda will be determined today in working meetings between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations. For the moment, the three parties to the committee--Israel, Egypt and the United States--have agreed that the opening will be on Tuesday morning. This will be a public session where the three foreign ministers will speak. Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, will open. The U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, will apparently meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin this evening, and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will meet with the foreign minister of Egypt, Ibrahim Kamal.

Siilasvuo To Brief Waldheim

NC140731Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The United Nations announced last night that Gen Ensio Siilasvuo will keep the UN secretary general continuously informed on the discussions of the Political Committee in Jerusalem, but the UN secretary general himself will not take part in the talks. Our correspondent in New York says that this decision was taken following pressures and counterpressures which have been exerted on the UN Secretariat. The United States exerted pressure on Dr Waldheim to announce that the United Nations will take part in the talks. The Soviet Union, Syria and representatives of the rejectionist front tried to prevent such an announcement.

UN Observer To Attend

TA151832Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A UN representative will participate as an observer in the deliberations of the Political Committee in Jerusalem. However, according to reports today, it is not clear if the observer will be the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, General Siilasvuo, or if another man will be appointed.

16 Jan Morning Papers

TA160742Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] All papers deal with the crisis hanging over the convening of the Political Committee, a crisis that was settled yesterday.

HA'AREZ writes that perhaps we can learn from this that President as-Sadat knows that without a compromise nothing can be achieved. It should be clear to him, however, that yesterday Israel proved flexibility that appears far reaching against the background of procedural discussion and expects corresponding flexibility on the part of Egypt when substantive issues are discussed.

DAVAR says that, parallel to the deliberations of the Political Committee in Jerusalem that will certainly be far from easy, we are to expect a continued struggle for public opinion in the United States since, after the improvement in Israel's image thanks to the peace plan, that public opinion over the last 2 weeks reacted with surprise to decisions, acts and reports concerning new settlements. The campaign for U.S. public opinion is a vital one that should be conducted in a wise and responsible manner today when most interest concentrates on the events in the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem.

'AL HAMISHMAR believes that in the wake of the recent events we should free ourselves from the illusion that the negotiations will be easy and that success is guaranteed in advance. The problems aroused regarding the determination of the agenda will be in the focus of the debates in Jerusalem. The Israeli Government must reassess its position about the future of Judaea and Samaria if it indeed wants to reach a settlement.

HAMODI'A is of the opinion that the Egyptian president apparently decided to come to the threshold of crisis but not bring the talks to actual crisis. The conclusion arising from the recent development is that Egypt's president does not see a way back. Both parties know that they must look for ways and strain their minds in order to reach a settlement that will bridge the large gap.

HAZOFE says that Israel's representatives must stand up to the war of nerves and should not be frightened by threats of crisis. Both parties should be praised for making mutual concessions in the argument over the agenda in order not to foil the deliberations of the Political Committee to be opened in Jerusalem tomorrow.

Afternoon Editorials

TA160944Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Jan 78 TA

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV draws conclusions from the crisis threatening the Political Committee. First, the paper says, it is clear now that the active help of the Americans will be required from now on for almost every difficulty in the negotiations. A second lesson: Israel was found to be in an inferior position in the sphere of information and psychological warfare. President as-Sadat succeeded in creating for himself an image of a tortured martyr and an angel of peace who shows total willingness to concede in contrast to the intransigent Israeli position. Therefore, Israel must improve its performance in the sphere of information to prevent an erosion. An additional conclusion: The Oriental bazaar [bargaining method] remains as it is and the method of negotiations adopted by the prime minister is inappropriate. MA'ARIV says that we should begin again, bargain and argue over every point and issue.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that the end of the week was marked with a flood of reports from Egypt aimed at blackening and slandering us and distorting our intentions. In addition all this was put in the form of an ultimatum. The paper proposed that Egypt stop this since it is to no avail.

Egyptian: Israel Broke Promises

TA161216Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Yohanan Lahav and Yisra'el Har'el]

[Text] The prime minister of Israel promised President as-Sadat that he would evacuate the whole of Sinai, including the Rafah approaches settlements. Israel went back on its intention to evacuate the settlements, and this is the reason why the president of Egypt for the last few days has been speaking hard words about Israel's policy.

This complaint was made to us in the early hours of the morning by one of the leaders of the Egyptian delegation to the Jerusalem talks. The man said: "President as-Sadat spoke to Begin with flowers and received a bouquet of thorns in return."

According to the man, Begin had promised to agree to an evacuation of the settlements in his talk with As-Sadat in Ismailia. At the Weizman-As-Sadat meeting in Cairo the president of Egypt also understood that the defense minister had agreed to the evacuation of the settlements, although the words were not specifically stated by Mr Weizman. The defense minister expressed himself, according to the diplomat, to the effect that "there was no military value to the settlements." Weizman also said, according to the Egyptians, that "Sharm ash-Shaykh had no military value," and from this, the member of the Egyptian entourage explained, President as-Sadat understood that Israel would agree to withdraw from there as well.

The member of the Egyptian elite added that there would be no problem about the timing of the withdrawal since the army personnel understood very well how much time was needed to dismantle and build installations. "In the matter of the settlements for Sinai, too, we will show generosity and wait until you build new settlements for the Sinai settlers before you evacuate them. This could take years."

WEIZMAN, GUR INTERVIEWED ON MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS

Defense Minister's Comments

TA132001Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 13 Jan 78 TA

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Jerusalem television military correspondent 'Amiram Nir in Cairo on morning of 13 January--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] In the talks were you convinced that after the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt there would no longer be any military threat on our southern border?

[Answer] See here, this is one of the tough questions....

[Question] Which we posed to the Egyptians?

[Answer] Of course. We always repeat this. In the end, to our regret, history shows that there have been many cases in which peace treaties were signed after which they fell apart and disappeared.

[Question] Did the Egyptian reply satisfy you?

[Answer] Just a minute; there is no unequivocal reply. I did not say that after there is a peace treaty, will there no longer be war--to which they said yes. It doesn't go like that. We are trying to show credibility on both sides. We are trying--and we are quite successful--in creating an atmosphere of rejecting preconceptions. This is a case of mutual trust.

[Question] Were you convinced by the Egyptian answer that there is a good chance that peace with Egypt will have a high level of credibility?

[Answer] I repeat: This is the $64,000 question. That is why we need so many guarantees. I repeatedly told him--and I hope that he will not be angry with me if I say this, I think not; by the way, relations between us are very interesting at the moment, at least this is what I feel and I think that he also feels this--I said: Look here, with all due respect--I also said this to the president, to As-Sadat--today you are here and there is total credibility and there will be a high credibility. However, tomorrow someone else will be here. Tomorrow someone else will come. Tomorrow General al-Jamasi will not be here but someone else. How can I be sure that the issue is not based on a personal background--that we have achieved something while you are dealing with the issue, while tomorrow someone else will be there, for example 'Abd al-Hakim Amer in 1967? This is one of the things on which you have to take risks in so sensitive a situation.

[Question] Are the Egyptians showing understanding for our needs and are they making an effort to meet us on issues on which we are especially sensitive?

[Answer] At this stage, not so much. At this stage they are continually trying to tell us: We do not accept some of your security concepts. And we, of course, argue back. The presentation of the issue by the chief of staff--yesterday he submitted a long and basic review--and I, of course, repeat this: Part of it is Israel's size both from a geographical and demographic point ov view in comparison with the huge Arab world--even in comparison with big Egypt--both in respect to territory and population. For example, I told As-Sadat when I spoke with him in Aswan--I told him: Look here, it took me 1 hour and 10 minutes to get from Cairo to Aswan. I flew on and on and I did not cross the whole of Egypt. I told him that, to my regret, were I to fly eastward from Israel for 1 hour, I would reach Baghdad.

[Question] Do you feel that they understand this point? Do they feel what we feel on this issue?

[Answer] Not yet. I do not think that they feel it enough, and this is one of the problems. They also repeat their national sensitivity and their pride. They have adopted the position of not an inch.

[Question] In your assessment, what is the most difficult issue in the negotations for a settlement in Sinai, the issue on which the most serious difference of opinion will be focused?

[Answer] Undoubtedly, the issue is the settlements. This is a mixture of the political and the military aspects; also the military installations, which, in our opinion, should remain, the size of the security belts of various types--either a limited forces zone or a demilitarized zone, with or without the United Nations. For example, there is one issue that we have presented and I think that it is beginning to be accepted--if there is an agreement and all demilitarizations and limited forces zones of various types are acceptable to both sides--what are the means available to prevent the introduction of an army over and above a certain size and what is either side permitted to do if the other side violates this? For example, I told him: You will, for example, have a certain military force in Sinai and tomorrow you will not be here and someone else will. Then, overnight, the force in Sinai could become five times larger. I feel today that in such a case I would have to repeat military moves that we made in this past. His answer: And what happens if you recruit? [as heard] My answer: Let us see what each side does if the other side makes moves that are unacceptable, and this should be written into the agreement. I feel that this is beginning to be acceptable to them. In other words, if someone brings reinforcements for a certain force in Sinai, what am I permitted or forbidden to do on this issue?

[Question] In an agreement, will Israel be prepared to concede on the issue of IDF protection for the settlements in the Rafah approaches and, in light of the Egyptian remarks on this issue, is it possible, in your opinion, to reach an understanding on this issue?

[Answer] I hope so. The Israeli Government has made a decision, and this will not be changed. I repeated the government's position several times. They received the government's position in writing as well. They noted the Israeli Government's proposal. They did not accept it; in fact, they rejected the Israeli proposal and submitted a counterproposal which we also rejected. In fact, the situation at the moment is that we--the Israeli Government--even before we began contacts here in Cairo, sent a written proposal after Ismailia and yesterday's answer, via my colleague General al-Jamasi, was a rejection of the Israeli Government's proposal and a counterproposal...

[Question] All of or some of it?

[Answer] The principle of it. The principles that were accepted are limited forces zones, demilitarized zones and so forth.

[Question] What is the difference between active and passive peace in the Israeli view and what is the Egyptian view on this point?

[Answer] In my opinion, there is no difference. It might be that they have not put this in writing as we have but, on the contrary, this is being asserted by them all the time. If there is peace there will be normal relations; there will be embassies and you will come and go and we will come and go, and El Al will fly and the Egyptian airline will fly, and the canal will be open. On the contrary, this is being repeated especially against the background of our fears about security. One of the strongest things to advance security will be a normalization of life.

[Question] Do you find your Egyptian colleagues pleasant company for negotiations?

[Answer] Certainly, especially General al-Jamasi, whom I have already got to know, for I have already met him twice in Egypt, as you know. I came here and did not find any protocol. There was none of that. We do not have a feeling between us of one's being chairman. Everything is being conducted very naturally, with agreement, even without prior discussions between the two of us on how things are to be conducted, who will have right of speech. In fact, there is no chairman.

[Question] There was a common language?

[Answer] On these issues, yes; on the issue of Sinai, not yet.

Chief of Staff's Remarks

NC141020Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 Jan 78 NC

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Egypt has rejected Israel's peace proposals and Israel has rejected Egypt's peace proposals. It appears that despite the difficulties, however, the talks in Cairo were conducted in a good atmosphere and there is no substantive difference in the way Israel and Egypt conceive peace. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur sums up the talks in Cairo. He is interviewed [in Cairo] by our military correspondent Romi Dani'el: [begin recording]

[Question] Lieutenant General Gur, did you get the same impression as the Egyptians that peace between Israel and Egypt will prevent the possibility of war on another front?

[Answer] I think that both we and the Egyptians believe that the evil vicious circle of wars must be broken at a certain point. My feeling is that they believe--as we do--that if this begins in Egypt there is a prospect of its spreading to all the others for good. It is clear, however, that peace with Egypt and a situation in which the Egyptians undertake not to do anything in the event of a flareup on another front would facilitate security arrangements in Sinai. The Egyptians view the problem today, more or less, from this aspect.

We are just at the beginning of the road. My feeling is that the more we discuss the details, the more our views and their views will come closer together. It is impossible to expect agreement to be reached on issues on which we have differeed for 30 years as soon as the negotiations start. I am certain that in light of the recent discussions, which were held in a really very good atmosphere, it is possible to arrive at a more similar formulation of the problems, after which it will be possible to better decide on the solutions.

[Question] Do you have the impression that the Egyptians will be prepared to agree to a reduction of forces?

[Answer] I estimate that the Egyptians would be prepared to agree to many security arrangements. The real question is the proportion of importance of each one of these arrangements. If, for example, a territorial depth in Sinai deeply concerns them, they can create a territorial depth by reducing the size of the armies and moving them to areas far from Sinai. I believe that if we do not take a stubborn stand on each article, but want instead to create a correct general picture, then we can find a common language. Of course, the question of the other Arab states and the Palestinian issue will remain outstanding, piercing problems, and the Egyptians will have to make an unequivocal self-examination.

[Question] While we are here in Cairo, Mr Chief of Staff, there has been a massive Soviet airlift of arms and equipment, mainly to Syria. Do you link that to the events in Cairo, and to what extent does this endanger Israel? Are the Syrians hatching anything?

[Answer] We have always estimated--and nothing has changed in this--that the eastern front--that is to say, particularly Syria and Iraq, and to a certain extent also Jordan--may certainly be an active front, and this is one of our main considerations in the debates. We put this forward pretty clearly and sharply in the debates yesterday, both when I presented the comprehensive security problem and when, in the evening, I referred to several of their issues, so that we are not ignoring what is happening there. As I mentioned earlier, one of the Egyptians' main internal problems must be in understanding our fears of threats from other directions.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, after 2 days of debates, how can you sum up the overall military-security issues which were raised during the talks? To what extent do the Egyptians grasp Israel's security concept, Israel's security demands?

[Answer] It is impossible to sum up, because we are still at the beginning of the road. I think that any such attempt would not be intelligent and not [word indistinct].
[end recording]

CUT OF 1.5 BILLION POUNDS SUGGESTED FOR DEFENSE

LD150730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich has decided to cut 3 billion pounds from the proposed budget. Half of this is to come from the defense allocation.

The proposed cuts are to be brought before today's cabinet meeting.

REACTION TO AS-SADAT REMARKS IN OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Prime Minister's Comment

TA142011Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister this evening reacted to President as-Sadat's remarks in an interview with OCTOBER magazine and called for a cease-fire on the part of all sides with respect to public declarations. The prime minister said that it is regrettable that President as-Sadat said what he did. We submitted a peace plan which was regarded by all who saw it as a fair and constructive plan in the negotiations between the parties.

Mr Begin said that he will not enter into a dispute with President as-Sadat over this statement. We are now in a process of direct negotiations between the delegations. It is hoped that the deliberations in the Political Committee will begin the day after tomorrow. Let us give direct negotiations a chance.

The prime minister made these remarks after consultations this evening with ministers at his house in Jerusalem. The members of the Israeli delegations to the two joint committees participated in the consultations.

DAVAR Cites Jerusalem Sources

TA151514Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Excerpt] Political observers in Jerusalem assess that As-Sadat's remarks to OCTOBER are aimed at pressuring Israel with the approach of the convening of the Political Committee in Jerusalem and with an eye on the deliberations of the Military Committee in Cairo, inasmuch as his main aim is to move the Americans to pressure Israel to be ready for greater concessions than it has made so far.

It is assessed in Jerusalem that As-Sadat wants to advance the discussions so that he will be able to point to real achievements, both domestically and externally, to the Arab world. The observers link As-Sadat's sharp remarks to the reaction of the Egyptian spokesman to Begin's remarks comparing As-Sadat to Nero, the emperor of Rome. It is possible that As-Sadat's remarks express his anger at the prime minister's reaction, a reaction that was based, according to the Egyptian announcement, on imprecise reports about As-Sadat's remarks.

The observers in Jerusalem believe that As-Sadat's remarks do not herald a confrontation or crisis in the talks despite the fact that they have created a less comfortable atmosphere for the opening of the deliberations of the Political Committee compared to the relaxed atmosphere prevailing during the discussions of the Military Committee in Cairo. The impression in Cairo is that there is a positive basis for the negotiations. Therefore, no pessimism yet prevails in Jerusalem after As-Sadat's remarks, although the feeling of cautious optimism prevailing last week has passed.

15 Jan Morning Papers

NC150815Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] Most of the newspapers react to As-Sadat's stern statements in his interview with OCTOBER magazine.

DAVAR says the Israeli public, which is striving to break the chain of hostilities, still hopes that the views expressed in the interview and other similar notes heard during the past 24 hours over Cairo Radio are maneuvers in the war of nerves on the eve of the opening of the Political Committee's deliberations in Jerusalem. Progress toward a settlement and toward the attainment of a settlement are important to both sides and, therefore, every effort must be made to remove the obstacles. The paper hopes that, despite all of the difficulties, the negotiations between Israel and Egypt will be crowned with success. Important conditions for this are strong nerves, a wise outlook and liberations from the dictates of a zero-hour mentality.

HA'AREZ writes that Egypt may think it would be wise for it to attempt in this early phase to warn against so-called Israeli intransigence and, through this, to force Jerusalem to soften its stands or to prepare the ground early to blame us for the failure. Such maneuvers are transparent, and Israel will not be alarmed by them. Even when notes that grate on the ear are heard from Cairo, we want to believe that Egypt is just as interested in peace as Israel and that Egypt's leadership is aware that it is impossible that only one side should present its complete demands in the negotiations; in other words, just as much flexibility is demanded from Cairo as for Jerusalem.

HAZOFE says that the combination of flippancy, threats and false dismay do not help bring about a relaxed atmosphere on the eve of the opening of the Political Committee meetings. All parties should arrive at the conference table in good spirits and with a sincere desire to make progress toward the goal of the discussions.

Afternoon Editorials

NC151031Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[From the afternoon press editorials]

[Text] Both papers dealt with the deadlock we have arrived at in the contacts with the Egyptians.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that President as-Sadat's statement that he is desperate indicates that we have apparently arrived at the crossroads about which Mr Begin talked a few days ago. Following the dramatic postponement of Vance's trip to Jerusalem and the severe warning from a senior official in Washington that Carter is likely to intervene if we do not continue to make concessions to As-Sadat, the paper advises Rabbi Alexander Schindler to transfer the center of his activities from Cairo to the United States.

MA'ARIV believes that As-Sadat's recent moves can be interpreted as a barrage to soften Israel in order to get it to change its positions prior to the opening of the discussions of the Political Committee. However, the formulations of the Egyptian president and his personal attacks on Menahem Begin and the Jews exceed the limits of political pressure and become a testimony against the one who uttered them.

RABBI SCHINDLER HANDS AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN

NC150830Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Prior to the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with the chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations, Rabbi Alexander Schindler.

Following the meeting, Rabbi Schindler told our correspondent Razi Barqa'i that he had conveyed a verbal message from President as-Sadat to Mr Begin. He did not go into details, but he said that the spirit of the message can be understood against the background of the latest public statements.

Schindler on As-Sadat Remarks

TA151435Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 78 p 3 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Excerpts] President as-Sadat told Rabbi Schindler, the chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations, that if he does not reach a peace agreement with Israel, he may resign. As-Sadat told Schindler this in Aswan on Monday.

Rabbi Schindler, who spent about a week in Egypt, says that both the civilian and military leaders support As-Sadat's moves and want a peace agreement. The Egyptian leadership is persuading As-Sadat to be patient and avoid impatient reactions in the communications media, reactions which invite counterreactions on the part of Jerusalem. Nevertheless, Rabbi Schindler heard very firm remarks opposing the continuation of settlement in the Sinai from all Egyptian personages with whom he met. Schindler is of the opinion that even if As-Sadat resigns, his successor would continue the efforts toward a settlement, which are accepted by the entire Egyptian leadership.

As-Sadat told him that he did everything for the sake of peace, that he extended a friendly hand to Israel and demonstrated his desire for peace, while now he is almost desperate and may have no choice but to resign.

He said that Begin and the Israeli Government did not fully understand the great turning point that has occurred and that the Israeli Government is dealing with some settlements and with stubborn bargaining procedures instead of bringing about an immediate turning point that will lead to peace. Rabbi Schindler told As-Sadat that the Jewish community in the United States greatly appreciates his initiative and courage but that nevertheless it is deeply committed to Israel. U.S. Jewry hopes for peace between Israel and its neighbors, but it will not tell Israel what its defense needs are. "Just as you, Egypt's president, have problems in the inter-Arab arena, and maybe even domestic problems, so the Israeli Government has difficult problems, and you should not forget that even if Israel is convinced by your sincerity, the other Arab countries refuse to make peace with it and this obliges Begin to be overly cautious. Who, in addition, will guarantee Israel what will happen along its border with Egypt if there are changes in the Egyptian leadership? For these reasons, in addition to certain domestic considerations, Israel may not accept all of Egypt's requests."

"What is all this talk of Arab opposition?" As-Sadat said. "Egypt and Sudan are two-thirds of the Arab world. Everything Egypt does, the other Arab countries will follow if the process indeed succeeds."

Schindler said that "such negotiations require time. It cannot be expected that there will be quick moves that will immediately bring about full peace. All great things require effort, and with good will and joint effort it will be possible to overcome the obstacles."

As-Sadat did not raise the subject of Judaea and Samaria and the settlements there in this talk but spoke firmly against continued settlement in Sinai and demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal. Nonetheless, it seems that he has not blocked the road for negotiations on this matter, possibly negotiations about exchange of territories.

Rabbi Schindler says the Egyptian leadership feels it was led astray. As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem gave rise to enormous expectations, but nothing has really happened and As-Sadat repeatedly claims that he has not yet received anything in return for his initiative. The feeling is apparently caused by the need for peace which is crying out from every corner of Egypt. In contrast with many Israelis who believe that Begin has given too much and too soon, the Egyptians feel that As-Sadat gave Israel peace without getting anything in return.

Rabbi Schindler also claims that all the political and central personalities, as well as the army heads and police leaders in Egypt, support As-Sadat's initiative. If As-Sadat decides to retire, his official successor is Vice President Husni Mubarak. If Mubarak decides not to step into As-Sadat's shoes, there will be three or four candidates--three of whom Rabbi Schindler met with--but he is not ready to give their names. They all said they support As-Sadat's initiative and believe that peace is vital for Egypt. They all believe there is no way back and that it is important to make progress along the road to peace.

Schindler does not underestimate As-Sadat's warnings. As mentioned above, As-Sadat clearly told him that if the negotiations do not lead to results soon he will have no choice but to resign, although he does not regret his initiative. "I am content with what I did. It was a holy mission, whatever happens in the future."

BEGIN MEETS CONGRESSMEN; COMMENTS ON RAFAH, AS-SADAT

Settlements Must Be Kept

TA160722Y Jerusalem POST in English 16 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said last night he would rather resign than give up the Rafah area settlements. Briefing the members of the U.S. House International Relations Committee, Begin said any Israeli prime minister who gave up these settlements would be thrown out, "but I would resign before that."

Begin also maintained that President as-Sadat's original agreement to in-depth demilitarized zones in Sinai had been more generous than Egypt's proposal presented at last week's military talks in Cairo.

Recalling the warm and friendly reception Israel had accorded President as-Sadat during his visit in Jerusalem two months ago, Begin mentioned the article by Mustafa Amin which appeared in "AKHBAR AL-YAWM" on the Friday following the Ismailia talks. The article said that Begin "can consider himself lucky that he was allowed to leave the summit meeting without being beaten up by the Egyptians." This is something that could have never been written in Israel about President as-Sadat, Begin said: "although we have a totally free press."

The congressmen came away disappointed and even depressed from what they thought was a rather gloomy presentation by the prime minister. The context of Begin's remarks was explained to them during a dinner given in their honour by Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin, who stressed the far-reaching concessions which Begin had made in his peace proposals despite strong opposition within his own party. It is therefore unjustifiable to accuse Israel of being intransigent and lacking a proper response to As-Sadat's peace initiative, Yadin said. He warned against pressing for quick results in the search for peace.

As-Sadat Wary of PLO

TA160723Y Jerusalem POST in English 16 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[Text] ITIM, UPI--Prime Minister Menahem Begin said yesterday that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat feels more strongly than he does about the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"When I said to President as-Sadat at Ismailia that some of the PLO people are Soviet agents, he corrected me," Begin told visiting U.S. congressmen. "'All of them,' he said."

He also told members of the House International Relations Committee that Israel opposed establishment of a Palestinian state because it could become a Soviet puppet.

"From Odessa to Bethlehem there is now a flight time of two hours in a supersonic jet," he said.

The 15-member delegation arrived in Israel yesterday to complete a Middle East tour. The head of the delegation, Representative Clement Zablocki (Democrat, Wisconsin) said the group sensed "a feeling of apprehension in the region."

Zablocki, chairman of the committee, read a prepared statement after arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport for a three-day visit. The delegation has visited Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iran.

"Now is the time for meaningful negotiations," Zablocki said. "If the initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat fails, it may be another 30 years or more before another opportunity presents itself."

The congressman said Israel must respond to As-Sadat's initiative to keep the peace momentum going. But he added that the leaders with whom the group had met, including As-Sadat, "believe that Israel's response to As-Sadat's initiative has been inadequate and disappointing. As a result there is a feeling of apprehension in the region," Zablocki said.

Zablocki said the purpose of the visit is to study the bilateral relations between the U.S. and the countries of the Middle East, with special emphasis on economic and military aid agreements and on weapons sales.

In addition to yesterday's briefing with Begin, the delegation will meet here with Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman, opposition chief Shim'on Peres and other leaders and will tour the northern part of the country.

SHARON: ALL SETTLEMENT PLANS HAVE CABINET APPROVAL

TA131623Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has strongly denied reports that settlement is being carried out only on his authority. All that has been done and will be done in the future is authorized by the government and in accordance with its decisions, Sharon said in a lecture at the Tel Aviv commercial and industrial club.

He also said that the government's peace plan is good and bold. Even though it has risks, these are calculated. In Sharon's opinion, Israel's peace plan should be accompanied by a settlement plan because when the borders are open we will have to face a cultural erosion [sahaf tarbuti] of the entire area.

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